Ann Arbor Observer

December 2007

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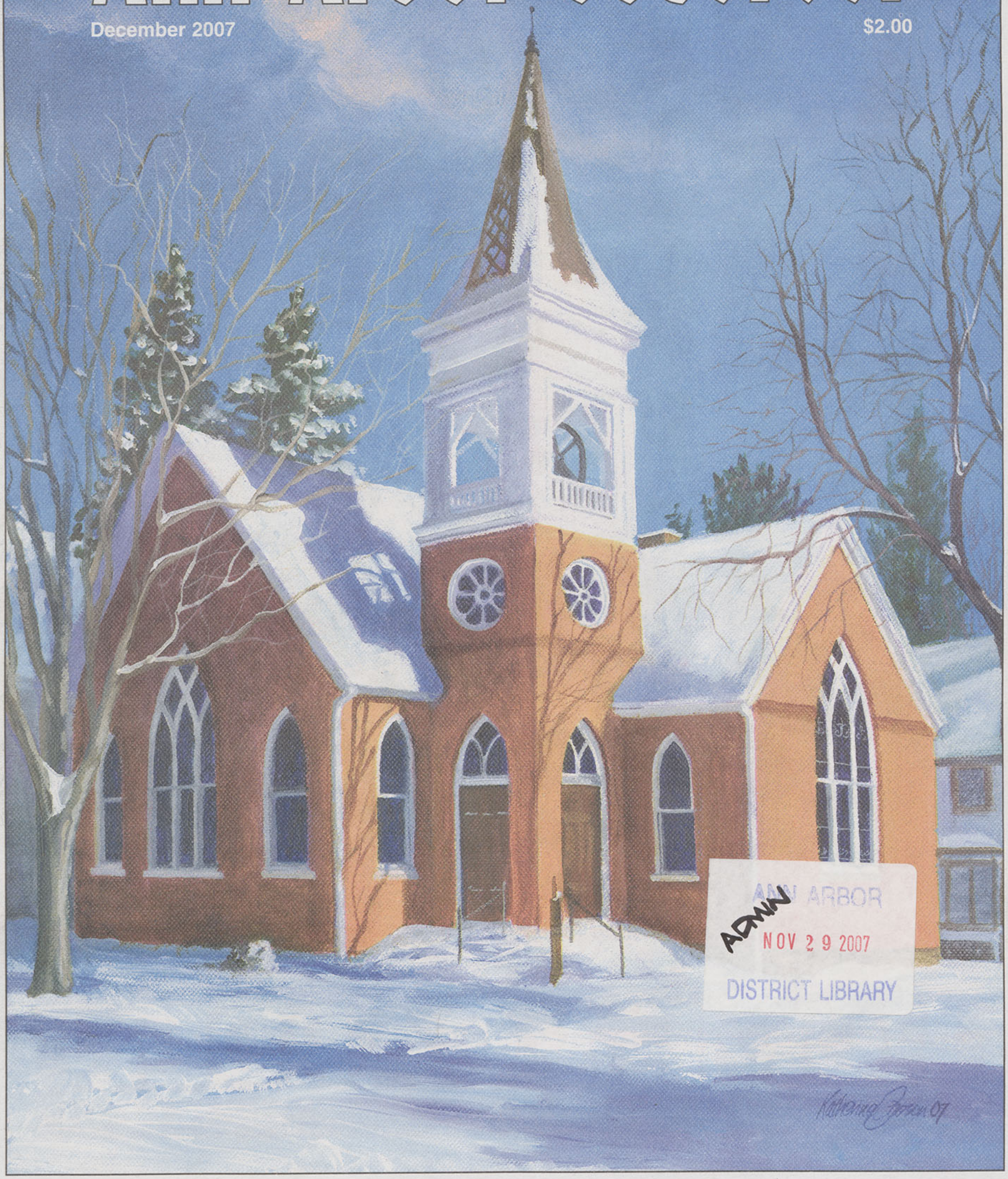

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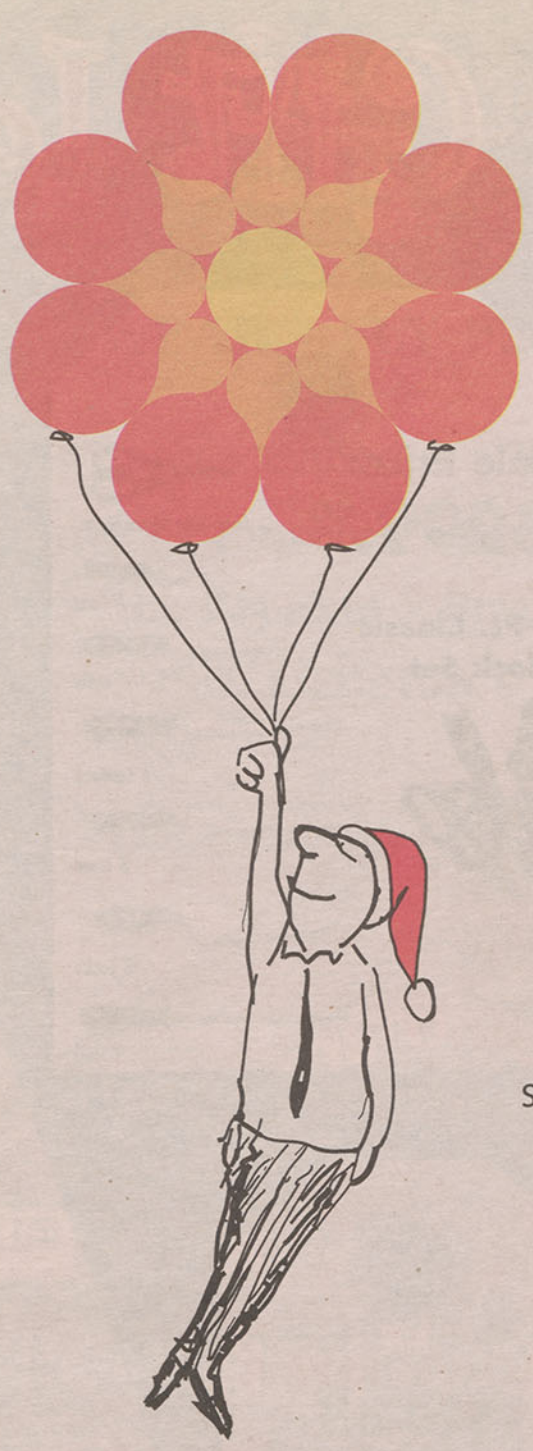

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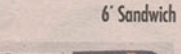
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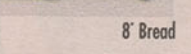
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Ann Arbor Observer

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Ann Arbor HANDS-ON Museum

Holiday Happenings

Sciencepalooza Car Carnival
December 1 – 2
Hands-on activities
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Sunday Noon – 4pm

The Big Freeze
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28 10 – 5	29 10 – 5	30 NOON – 5	31 10 – 5

January			
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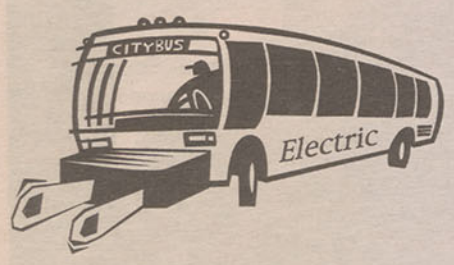
IHA

"That new-bus smell": There's a new bus in town. It's a little longer (the windshield sticks out farther to provide a better driver's view), and it has some unusual bulges. But what really makes it different is that it uses a smaller, quieter diesel engine in combination with an electric motor—it runs on a battery up to twenty-five miles per hour, and the diesel takes over above thirty-five. Between, they split the effort. Community relations manager Mary Stasiak says the AATA has fifteen of the diesel-electrics in service—on routes 2, 4, 5, 6, and 36—and eventually plans to hybridize its entire fleet.



So far, Stasiak says, the hybrids are getting 4.5 to 5.0 miles per gallon—which doesn't sound like a lot until you compare it with conventional diesels' 3.55. That means significantly lower fuel usage, air pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions. Virtue aside, it looks, feels, and sounds like . . . a bus. It has that "new bus" smell, but you can still feel the engine vibrating. After a minute you settle in, and it's like every other bus ride you've ever taken—at least until you transfer to an old-style diesel. They're suddenly unbearably loud.

Filling the dip: As if the county's growing list of aging bridges weren't enough of a headache, there's also the

bridge that isn't: the big dip on Liberty Road between Zeeb and Parker roads in Scio Township. According to John Patoros, who lives nearby, the low spot becomes quicksand in the summer and a slippery sheet of ice in the winter. "I remember one car that slid on the ice and plowed deep into a snowbank in the dead of winter," Patoros says. "The owner left the car there for six months." Patoros says he's complained to the county road commission, but nothing has been done to fix it. So what does he think should happen? Patoros replies emphatically, "Build a bridge!"

Kid collaboration: The repertoire of singer-songwriter Joe Reilly is influenced by Buddhist, Catholic, and Native American traditions. He sings his original compositions around town at places like the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room and the Zen Buddhist Temple. But the catchiest tune on his latest album is one he cowrote with kids he teaches at the Leslie Science & Nature Center. After a canoe trip down the Huron River, Reilly picked up his guitar—and together, they tried to find a word that rhymed with *river*. The result is a word that on paper looks like *diver* but that they pronounced to rhyme with *river*:

Shibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby diver—
We got a song about the Huron River.
Water is such an important life-giver.
We will protect it, we will deliver.

"The Huron River Stewardship Song" may not be the serious, introspective work he's known for, but if Reilly were a rock star, it would be in continuous rotation on MTV. "Writing with kids helps me access the more silly and lighthearted aspects of myself," Reilly says. "I probably would not have come up with this song on my own."

Mandy and Pandy: *Mandy & Pandy Say, "Ni Hao Ma?"* is a stimulating children's book that teaches kids Chinese in a fun and easy way. It's also an ambitious self-publishing venture by Ann Arborite Chris Chiaru Lin. Born in Detroit to immigrant parents, Lin struggled to learn his ancestral language at a weekend Chinese school: for an American kid, he says, "there are so many competing distractions." He only got serious about it at the U-M, where he earned a B.A. and an M.B.A.—and realized that being bilingual could be a career path.

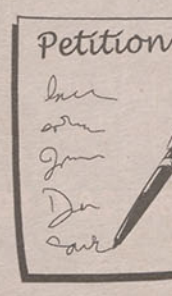
When Lin and his wife, Kristi, adopted a daughter from China two years ago, the former Ford marketing manager wanted a better way to teach her Chinese. When he

couldn't find the right materials, he decided to create them himself. In the book and accompanying CD, a little girl and her panda pal teach readers how to say "Ni hao ma?" or "How are you?" and then share stories about their activities—in both English and Chinese. Illustrated by Ingrid Villalta, it's the first of a planned series, and Lin is working hard to build a national buzz (check out his website at mandyandpandy.com). And yes, Mandy is based on his daughter—and Pandy is Lin himself!

Edgy videos: It's ninety unrelenting minutes of vivid talk about bestiality, incest, excretion, sexual violence, assault, and more—and it's on the shelf of Ann Arbor's downtown library. Patrons who missed the subtitle—*100 Comedians. One Very Dirty Joke*—might be shocked if they checked out the DVD of the 2005 film *The Aristocrats*. But Ann Arbor District Library director Josie Parker thinks that's okay. "Every person in Ann Arbor will

find something shocking in the library," she says, adding that she and her staff wouldn't be doing their jobs if they acted as censors. The library needs to serve a very diverse group of patrons, she says, and items "that shock people need to be here as part of the human record." With 500,000 items in the AADL collection (and $1.5 million annually available for additional materials), the library doesn't exercise much control over who sees what. Youth and teen items are grouped, but anyone with a card can check out any DVD, no matter how it's rated. So *The Aristocrats* (which is unrated) is accessible to kids, but Parker says no one has complained. Every branch of the library has a form where patrons can make a "request for reconsideration" about an item in circulation; when a complaint is received, Parker appoints a committee to assess the item's status in the collection. That happened with the NC-17-rated *Last Tango in Paris*—but at the end of the review, Parker decided to keep it on the shelves. It's a very high-circulating item, she says.

Signature stop: All Star Driving Education founder Tom Wall left his Mercedes SUV illegally parked on Ashley one November morning and stormed into Sweetwaters. With clipboard in hand, he marched up to a table crowded with his townie buddies—former U-M football players Donny Dufek and Mike Leoni, track coach Ron Warhurst, *Detroit Legal News* president Brad Thompson, stonemason Tom Fuleky, and Downtown Home & Garden owner Mark Hodesh. "I know I called you guys assholes yesterday, but today I love you, because now I'm a politician," Wall announced. "Will you sign my petition so I can run for mayor?" But as he held out the clipboard, something became stunningly clear: the middle-aged guys he'd grown up with in Ann Arbor had all moved west—to Scio Township and Dexter. The best they could do was point out a cute young teacher in the coffee line, who they knew lived in town. She admired the sweet-faced retriever looking out the back window of Wall's car, asked to pet the dog, and agreed to sign the petition.



While she was signing the petition, a police car pulled alongside Tom's illegally parked car, seemingly waiting for the light to change. With his dog barking and the police lurking, Wall gave his parting shot: "One day I'll own them. . . . But for now, I'd better get out of here or I'm going to get in trouble!"

Overheard: A small child sat on a man's shoulders at Division and Liberty. They were examining Google's colorful new sign on McKinley Towne Centre while they waited to cross the street.

The child asked, "What are people made of?"

The man responded, "Bone, muscle, tissue." He stepped into the street before adding, "And dreams."

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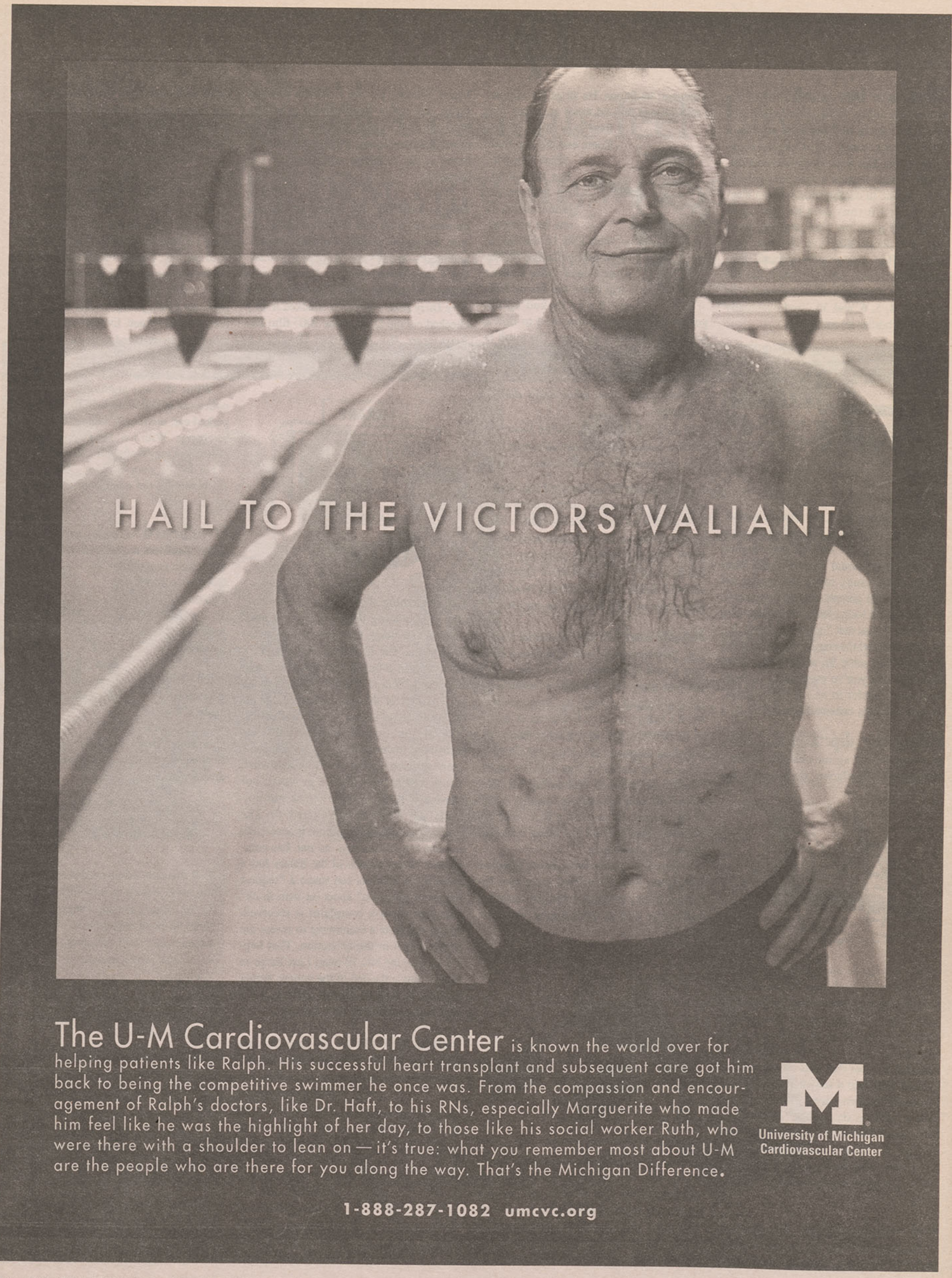
3 hours—labor needed to plant one tree in a park or on a street, through the city's Adopt-a-Park program



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Second-Ward Tsunami

An unlikely coalition fueled Ed Amonsen's write-in bid.

With only Democrats on the ballot, the November vote looked like an exercise in futility. But less than a month before the election, self-described independent Ed Amonsen filed as a write-in—and nearly unseated Republican-turned-Democrat Stephen Rapundalo. The final count was Rapundalo 843, Amonsen 773. Another seventy-one votes, and Amonsen would have pulled off an upset on a par with Appalachian State's.

When it looked like the city might sell Huron Hills Golf Course, independent Ed Amonsen launched a write-in campaign for city council—and nearly beat incumbent Stephen Rapundalo.

Amonsen's key issue was parks—specifically, the fear that city council might sell Huron Hills Golf Course. Neither he nor his backers were reassured by Rapundalo's sponsorship—once he realized the write-in threat was serious—of a council resolution declaring that whatever happens to the golf courses, the land must remain in the park system. "The proposal is nonbinding," says Amonsen supporter Ann Schreiber, "whereas they wouldn't touch [Bob] Johnson's proposal" to require a public vote on any parkland sale.

Amonsen, a consultant who lives very close to Huron Hills, drew support from an interesting mixture of NIMBYs, environmentalists, golfers, Democrats, Republicans, and people who, for various reasons, mistrust the current council. His endorsement list may be the first ever to include both former Second Ward Republican representative Jane Lumm and "Progressives of Washtenaw" activist Lou Glorie.

Lumm says she became concerned about Huron Hills more than two years ago, when she saw a recommendation on a city website to sell "the wooded property around the back nine." She and others pressed council and were assured this wouldn't happen. But this summer, council voted down a motion that would have instructed the consultant assessing the city's golf courses not to evaluate sale of the property.

According to mayor John Hieftje, that vote didn't mean anyone wanted to sell the land. "Just in general, we don't like to tie consultants' hands," he says. "The consultant . . . had the right to recommend it, but it was made clear no one would vote for it." Still, it was only after Amonsen launched his campaign that council took the option off the table.

"Three weeks before the election, Amonsen gathered about twenty invigorated supporters, and for three weeks, we gave the campaign our all," Schreiber wrote in an unpublished letter to the *Ann Arbor News*. "I've never been involved in a campaign before, but I now know that it takes an overwhelming amount of organization, time, and money. Ed's money all came from supportive individuals. And this 'Johnny come lately' *almost* won the election!"

Though no one expected Amonsen's near win, it's just one more sign that voter support for the council majority is wearing thin. In the August primaries, critics of the city's current direction defeated both Fifth Ward incumbent Wendy Woods and former First Ward rep John Roberts.

Mayor Hieftje was the original champion of the issues—budget discipline, infrastructure, and downtown redevelopment—that defined the current council. But now even he is seeking to distance himself from the majority he helped shape. In a voicemail message as this issue went to press, he cautioned that council is far from "monolithic"—and pointed out that he recently cast dissenting votes to oppose the planned police and courts building (see p. 27) and support a height limit on downtown buildings.

PHOTOS COURTESY ED AMONSEN

A City Clerk's Second Act

Winnie Northcross was heading to bed in her hotel room in Brcko, Bosnia, when someone knocked on her door.

Northcross, the former Ann Arbor city clerk, had already spent two days in Bosnia, sitting through briefings on the politics and candidates in the election she was going to monitor under contract with the U.S. Department of State. But then her late-night visitor told her that the elections office had received a threatening phone call, suggesting someone might target the international observers during the next day's national election. Northcross and the others were given the chance to bow out and head home.

"I thought, 'What have I gotten myself into?' " recalls Northcross, now sixty. Yet after some discussion and prayer, she and the other observers decided to stay. The next morning, she and an Englishman headed out with a driver and a translator. They questioned officials and watched the paper ballots flow in.

Elections in formerly communist countries are different from those Northcross oversaw for almost twenty years in Ann Arbor—and not just because of the threats. (The observers were later told that the call turned out to be a prank.) "It's an honor to work in polling stations," Northcross says. "They take their work very seriously." Elections are often held on Sundays, turnout is high, and many people dress up to vote.

Since retiring as acting associate city administrator in 2000, Northcross has worked part time at the New Hope Outreach Clinic, a joint venture between the U-M Geriatrics Center and New Hope Baptist Church. But for a week or two each year, she travels the world for a D.C.-area consulting firm, hired by the State Department to monitor elections in emerging democracies.

Her years as city clerk, overseeing local elections and election equipment, gave her the experience. Her zeal to learn about other countries,

COURTESY WINNIE NORTHCROSS

Winnie Northcross in Moscow's Red Square in 2003. The longtime city clerk now monitors elections around the world under contract with the U.S. Department of State.

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which she's had since she was a child reading about families from Norway, gave her the drive.

As a teen she wanted to join the Peace Corps, but her mother was "scared to death," so she dropped the idea. Her international elections work is that dream deferred.

Northcross recalls that she "was just flabbergasted" when the recruiter called and asked her to go to Bosnia: "I had never been to Eastern Europe in my life. I've been places I never in my wildest dreams thought of going." Since that first trip to Bosnia in 2002, she has monitored elections in Russia, Macedonia, Ukraine, and Armenia.

Many trips have brought her new friends—the interpreters and others she works with. And they've also brought her a renewed appreciation of democracy. The turnout is much higher in Russia or Armenia than in the United States. Elections are "much more meaningful there than to people here," she says.

Northcross may use her election expertise in Michigan again too—she said she's "been approached to do some work locally" in 2008. Since details aren't final, though, she's not saying which American ballot boxes she may oversee.

Condo Bust

Developers are running, not walking, away from downtown condo projects.

Last spring, developer Peter Allen climbed on a backhoe to break ground for Kingsley Lane, a forty-six-unit condominium at Ashley and Kingsley. This summer he quietly replanted the site—and in September put up a For Rent sign on his former sales office.

Allen says that there's been a "rain delay" and that he expects to revive the project once the economy improves, possibly in 2009. But he's not the only one pulling out the tarps. Nearby on Main Street, Mike Concannon is a year behind his original schedule for tearing down the former St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. He says he still plans to build ninety-five high-rise condos on the site—but he'll start out with a much smaller rental building at the back

COURTESY PETER ALLEN

After breaking ground last spring, Peter Allen decided to delay Kingsley Lane until the economy turns around.

of the property on Fourth Avenue. Meanwhile, over on Fifth Avenue, the city is getting ready to demolish the old YMCA—after firing the developer who was supposed to replace it with 145 subsidized apartments and owner-occupied condos.

Even already-built projects are struggling. Liberty Lofts, in the former Eaton factory west of downtown, is advertising up to $100,000 off on its last units. And sales aren't keeping up with construction at Ashley Terrace, the high-rise at Huron and Ashley. Ron Douglass, senior vice-president for development of Chicago-based Joseph Freed & Associates, describes sales as "slow but consistent." But he also says that the complex is 60 percent sold—which works out to fifty-five of the building's ninety-two units. That's the same sales count a Freed spokeswoman gave the Observer in the fall of 2006.

No wonder McKinley abandoned its already-approved plan to build condos across Division Street from McKinley Towne Centre. That site is now back in the planning process with a new developer—who's proposing to build a hotel instead. Freed, too, is reconfiguring already-approved projects. Instead of condos, Glen Ann Place and the 411 Lofts at Washington and Division "are going to be a new product—student housing," says Douglass. Site work for 411 Lofts has already begun, while Glen Ann Place is now timelined for groundbreaking in late summer or early fall 2008.

There is one bright spot in the downtown condo market: Lisa Stelter, a Charles Reinhart agent, says it took her just two weeks this summer to sell nineteen remodeled units on Main near Liberty. Developed by Amvest, the upstairs units came with no parking but were priced at just $225,000—half the cost of a typical high-rise unit. Stelter says that all her buyers were under thirty—and included several Google employees.

SUSAN FINLEY

Main Street Motors owner Jay Williams took in "Kitty" when he saw the former stray shivering outside on a bitterly cold day.

Animals at Work

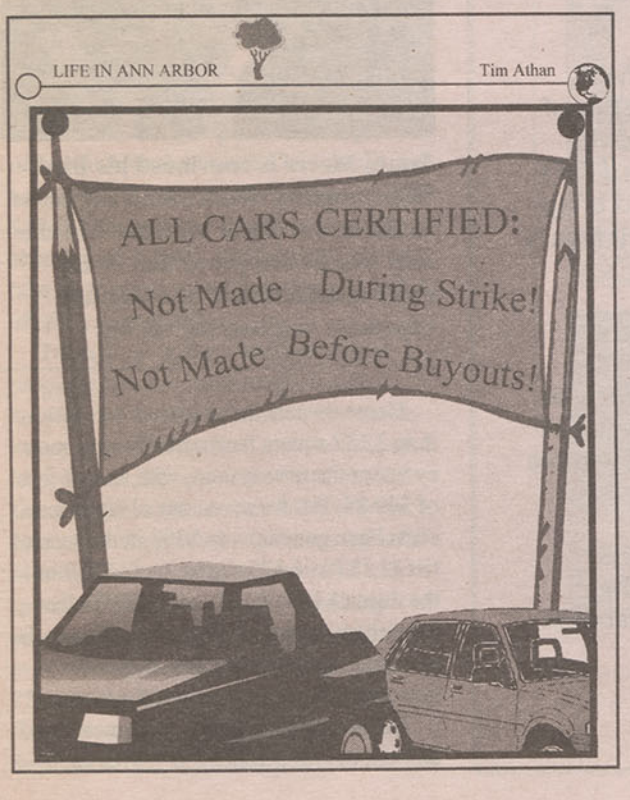
Pets have found a niche at local businesses.

It's not surprising that Alice Liberson, the owner of DogmaCatmantoo, keeps a dog (or sometimes two) in her Kerrytown-area pet supply store. Her beloved Border terrier Isadora ("Izzy") now just "works part time," she says, but a friend leaves mixed-breed Dot there all day. Liberson, who sells everything from collars to gourmet pet food, says customers often stop in just to pet Dot or Izzy.

But hers is far from the only downtown business with a "working pet." The list includes Abracadabra Jewelry (collie Chloe, Havanese Gracie), Downtown Home & Garden (orange tabby Lewis, who sleeps on bags of birdseed), Park Shoe Repair (the often-beribboned toy poodle Corey), and Peaceable Kingdom (two Jack Russell terriers named after movie stars Rosalind and Jane Russell).

Not every shopper loves pets, acknowledges Peaceable Kingdom owner Carol Lopez. Occasionally someone enters the store, announces "I don't like dogs," and exits. But most customers enjoy or at least tolerate their presence. Lopez is still moved by the occasion when a teenage autistic boy, upset about something, sat down on the floor of her store. One of her dogs (since deceased) gently trotted over to the boy, who started playing with him—and eventually used sign language in an attempt to communicate with the pet. When the boy left the store, he was calm. "It was beautiful," recalls Lopez.

Most store owners take their pets home at night, but the shop cat at Main Street Motors is a full-time resident. Owner Jay Williams took in the



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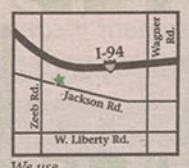

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Farmers may be eligible to deduct up to 100 percent of their income. The tax incentive also extends the carry forward period for a landowner to take tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements from five to 15 years.

Photo by Dan Ezekiel

Greenbelt program making strides

In November 2003, the residents of Ann Arbor overwhelmingly passed the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage, also known as the Ann Arbor Greenbelt and Parkland Program. The millage is a one-half mill, 30-year millage.

The purpose of the Greenbelt Program is to protect both working farmland and natural areas, as well as identifying and conserving those lands that are integral to the protection of the City of Ann Arbor's source groundwater and the Huron River - a portion of which is designated a state scenic river.

The Ann Arbor Greenbelt has purchased the development rights on five farms, protecting a total of 559 acres. The City of Ann Arbor also collaborated with Ann Arbor Township, who also received a Farm & Rand Lands Protection Program (FRPP) grant, for an additional 147 acres of protected farmland, bringing the total to over 700 acres protected with Greenbelt money to date.

With the funds received for the purchase of development rights, landowners may do a "1031 exchange." This provides tax breaks to the landowners who use the money to purchase more working farmland. Of the projects completed thus far, all landowners have put a portion of the money to purchase more farmland and expand their farming business.

The Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program has received over $2.5 million in Federal match dollars from USDA's FRPP for the purchase of development rights (PDR) on six working farms in Webster, Superior, and Salem Township.

former stray when he saw her shivering outside the garage on a bitterly cold day. Williams and his guys have never bothered to name her—"We pretty much just call her Kitty"—but when she needs to visit the vet, he takes her.

Kitty is "custom made to be the shop cat," Williams says. "She knows how to stay away from spills on the floor." Better yet, "she stays away from moving cars."

"Rain Tax"?

More than 250 Ann Arborites have appealed the city's new storm-water fees.

"It's not the money—it's the flat-out principle of the thing," says James Meyer indignantly. Meyer has written letters to the editor and letters to the city and has had a visit from city staff, all to contest the fee increases that took effect in July.

Last year residential water customers paid a flat $91 per year to maintain the storm-water system. The new system has four different fees based on the amount of "impervious surface" (such as roofs, sidewalks, and paved driveways) on the property—but the bottom line is that citizens will end up paying an extra half million dollars a year. The city says it needs the extra revenues to fix a deteriorating system, and to pay for federally required pollution controls.

SUSAN FINLEY

James Meyer is convinced his Bird Hills property doesn't send any water to the storm-water system—but the only way he can prove that to the city's satisfaction is by doing an expensive engineering survey.

Home owners in the lowest tier (less than 2,187 square feet) actually save money under the new system, with annual fees of $69.84. But for seven out of eight users, costs have gone up—to $103 in the second tier (2,187 to 4,175 square feet), $159 in the third (4,175–7,110), and $259 in the top tier (more than 7,110). Officials say the new rates are fairer because they reflect how much home owners use the system.

But are they? The city can't meter the amount of storm water that leaves each

property. Instead, the amount of impervious area was estimated from infrared aerial photos. Residents can check My Property on the city website, a2gov.org, to see the photo of their property—and are encouraged to print out the image, mark it up with comments if they believe there is an error, and mail it in. By the end of October, 250 people had done just that, citing wooded areas, wood chip mulch, flower beds, excavations, and even house shadows that had improperly been labeled as "impervious." Tom McMurtrie of the city's systems planning unit says staffers have been visiting about seven sites per week to check out these appeals.

Because the tiers are so broad, though, even a successful appeal may not change the fee. And some home owners, like Meyer, contend the entire system isn't just unfair but illegal. He argues that bigger properties are paying more just by virtue of their size, not because they are contributing more to storm-water flows. If that's the case, the storm-water fee is really a tax—something that, under the state's Headlee Amendment, can be imposed only by a vote of the people. City council candidate Ed Amonsen (see story above) calls it a "rain tax"—and west-side activist Pat Ryan points out that a similar graduated fee system in Lansing was found to be unconstitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court.

The new fees are based on infrared aerial photos—but home owners are complaining that wooded areas, mulch, flower beds, excavations, and even house shadows have been labeled as "impervious."

Fees, unlike taxes, are supposed to be at least somewhat under the control of the user. So the city is allowing citizens to take various steps to reduce their storm-water charges. By taking a simple survey at ewashtenaw.org/riversafe, a home can be declared a RiverSafe Home and receive a credit of $4.96 per year. Installing one or more rain barrels can net $7.16 credit, and a dry well, cistern, or rain garden is worth $11.20 (but only if it is demonstrated to absorb roof runoff). Diligent citizens who take all these steps can knock up to $23.32 off their annual bill.

Theoretically, home owners whose property produces no runoff shouldn't have to pay anything at all for the storm-water system—but there are a couple of big catches. Meyer is convinced that all the water that falls on his Bird Hills lot soaks into the ground—but city staff told him that the only way to prove that is to spend a bundle on a professional engineering study. And it's not enough if his lot produces no runoff in an average rain. The standard is a massive "100-year flood"—a tough test that home owners have never had to meet before.

SUSAN FINLEY

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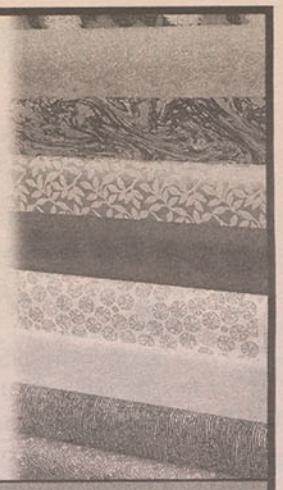

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~ owners, Rosanne & Tom Bloomer

The Bloomer farm was the first easement purchased under the Greenbelt Program in 2005. In addition to traditional crops, the Bloomers supply the Ann Arbor market with roasted soybeans and popcorn under the label "Rosie's Roasters." These products are sold at several local businesses.

Photos by Ted Sylvester

Dale & Karen Kapp's story

In 2006, the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt's program partnered with Ann Arbor Township to protect a 147-acre farm.

This project was the first purchase of development rights under Ann Arbor Township's Farmland Preservation program, which is funded by a millage approved by township voters in 2003.

Combining $757,000 of Ann Arbor Township funds with $757,000 provided by the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program and $698,500 obtained from the US Department of Agriculture's Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the City and the Township have ensured the continuation of farming on a 147-acre farm owned by Dale and Karen Kapp and its preservation as open space.

The Fishbeck Farm

"Our farmland is the most important resource this country has and we've been wasting it. The Greenbelt Program offers us an opportunity to preserve our land and our farm economy."
~ owner, Bill Fishbeck

To learn more about the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt, please call **734.997.1316** or Visit us online at: **a2gov.org/greenbelt.html**

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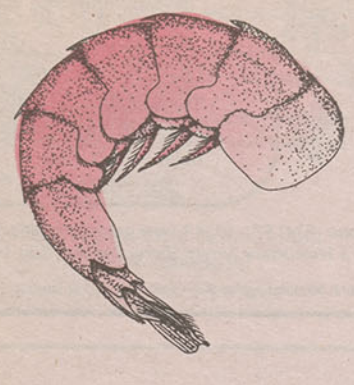

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Living Legends

How do you persuade the Temptations to perform at a community college?

Local jazz guitarist John E. Lawrence admits he gets more than a little nervous about approaching musical luminaries to perform in the concert series he directs at Washtenaw Community College. Groups like the Four Tops and guitarist Earl Klugh usually play much bigger halls than WCC's 480-seat Towsley Auditorium.

SUSAN FINLEY

John E. Lawrence persuaded the Temptations to come to WCC after running into the group's guitar player at a birthday party.

"The typical booking agent doesn't understand the concept," says Lawrence. "They used to quote me prices way out of our range, unless we charge two hundred dollars for tickets." Each Living Legends performance is preceded by an *Inside the Actors Studio*–style interview and a question-and-answer session with the audience, and followed by an award presentation.

Lawrence, who has headed the college music faculty, says he's found that the performers themselves are thrilled by the format—if he can get around their "people" to present it to them: "The secret is I have to get an inside track either to the artists themselves or somebody in their direct organization."

Lawrence reached Klugh through their shared guitar repairman, Ypsilantian Tom Pellerito. He ran into the Temptations' guitar player at a surprise birthday party for the saxophonist in Lawrence's jazz combo. He crashed the ninetieth birthday party for the mother of Willow Run native Nickolas Ashford (of Ashford and Simpson) at the Ypsilanti Marriott. And Duke Fakir of the Four Tops was serving as a greeter at a church in Detroit where Lawrence was playing. "Duke told me after the show was over, 'By the time we finished that interview, I felt like I knew everybody in the audience. I've been in the business for fifty years, and I never did anything like this before.' "

The Temptations will perform at the fifth Living Legends concert December 14 at 7 p.m. (see Events, p. 67). Tickets are well under $200—they're $35–$75 for the general public, $15 for WCC students.

calls & letters

Collaboration curbs public nuisances

To the Observer:

I am writing concerning your November article on public nuisances [James Leonard's "Criminal Geography"]. I appreciate that Mr. Leonard understood that there are real problems that need to be addressed in the city. It is important the city not be complacent. However, the most important point that I provided that was somewhat overlooked in the article is that the information the city attorney's office uses in these nuisance cases is the information gathered by the police in the criminal actions. It is this information that the city attorney's office then uses in the civil cases. In these cases, it is the police who initially do the hardest and actually dangerous work, not our office.

This legal work is really supplementing the important police work and the important criminal prosecution work. I argued the 512 Packard case in court with two members of the police present. I argued this case as a tribute to them, and the entire police department, for their work in protecting this city. The residents of Ann Arbor should be as grateful as I am for this police work and be truly supportive of police efforts. It was certainly fitting that the November issue also covered the police "party patrol"; but as I observe regularly, their work goes way beyond properly reining in the potential chaos of some ill-behaved college students.

A second point is that the collaboration in our office goes beyond the police to include members of the fire department, building inspectors, members of Community Standards, and others. This collaborative approach has been actively encouraged by the city administrator and has been supported by the city council.

Finally, in the conclusion of his article Mr. Leonard discussed Michigan football games, which some residents find inconvenient. It is again a tribute to the combined efforts of law enforcement agencies and the university that such an event is managed with minimal problems.

Sincerely,
Stephen K. Postema
Ann Arbor City Attorney

Neither Lulu's nor Leonardo's

Last month's Marketplace Changes item on the rebirth of Leonardo's Pizza came as a shock to Margaret Luke, who'd closed her Lulu's Cafe in Scio Town Centre in August. The partners who'd agreed to buy her cafe's equipment hadn't said a word to her about pizza, she explained in a phone call—and if they had, she would have told them there was no way Scio Township would allow it. "They cannot put pizza ovens in," says Luke, who owns the center on Zeeb Road with her father, Joe Grammatico. "There are people living upstairs." Nor, she added, could they continue to operate as Lulu's—they bought only the equipment, not the name or the recipes.

Anderson's update

Anderson Paint Company moved into its expanded building on West Stadium ahead of schedule in October—but contrary to our Marketplace Changes item that month, the Observer won't be moving into Anderson's former store on West William. Patricia Garcia and John Hilton, the magazine's owners, opted instead to remain in the MarketPlace Building on Catherine. Bob Anderson Sr. has put his lovely, Richard Black–designed store back on the market (see ad, p. 20).

Out of Commission

Realtors feel the pain of the housing slump.

Kathy Toth is a veteran agent with Real Estate One and one of the top sellers of homes in Washtenaw County. Until recently, she says, when she met with home owners who wanted to sell, she would come away with a listing 98 percent of the time. In the last few months, though, her "conversion" rate has dropped to 40 percent. The main problem: many would-be sellers owe more than their homes are worth.

With both buyers and sellers in short supply, the people who sell real estate face the toughest market in years. According to an analysis by Realtor Kevin Duke, between June 2003 and May 2004 a total of 110 agents sold $2 million or more worth of homes and condos in the Ann Arbor school district. In the same period in 2006–2007, just sixty-one hit that benchmark—a 45 percent drop. (Duke compared sales reported to the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors; the

SUSAN FINLEY

Realtor Kathy Toth has seen her "conversion rate" plummet, because a lot of people who want to sell their homes owe more than their houses are worth.

Realtors' information is believed accurate but is not guaranteed or warranted.)

Even in that elite group, few are getting rich. After allowing for split commissions and brokerage fees, a typical agent might earn about 2 percent on her sales; at that rate, $2 million yields an income of about $40,000. And most make far less. The bottom 92 percent of the Realtors in Duke's sample had average sales of only $722,000, earning less than $15,000.

No wonder Deborah Engelbert, of Charles Reinhart Company, says a number of her colleagues are getting out of the business or thinking about doing so. "All of a sudden I'll notice I haven't seen So-and-So for a while," says Gail Sinelli of Real Estate One—and she'll learn that the agent has taken another job. "A lot seem to go to Office Depot or Office Max," she says. According to Sinelli, the attrition is good, "because it eliminates those who don't do it full time or aren't professional"—and it leaves fewer agents to share the shrinking pool of commissions.

Those who remain "are working a lot harder now," says Engelbert. That includes more advertising and virtual tours, she says: "Before, a house would get sold before virtual tours could get arranged." Toth says she's kept her sales up by adopting new strategies, like making "reverse offers" to prospective buyers and helping clients rent their homes until the market improves.

Not everyone is losing business, though. Chet Hill, an office manager with Keller Williams Realty, says that his company's Martin Bouma and David Mueller are setting sales records. "It's not necessarily the established Realtor who is doing well, but those willing to change," says Hill, who reports that three of his best agents have been working less than two years. One of them is Ryan Overmyer, who credits his performance to perseverance: "It used to take ten [cold] calls to get one listing. Now it's twenty-five to thirty calls for one sale."

Matt Dejanovich of Real Estate One says he's having his second-best year ever. "With good pricing and an aggressive marketing strategy, you can still be a success in spite of the declining market," Dejanovich says. But with so few buyers and sellers out there, he adds, "when the opportunity presents itself, you really need to be on the ball."

With all the Pfizer transfers, relocation volume is up, especially on the seller side. As Susan Kellam of Charles Reinhart Relocation explains, "Agents know that the clients are definitely moving, definitely need to purchase a house, and are getting help with expenses." The steady work comes at a price, however: typically, more than a third of the Realtor's commission goes toward referral fees paid to the client's relocation company. Consequently, says Toth, established Realtors prefer to get their own business—leaving relocation clients to agents at the "bottom of the totem pole."

As sales dwindle, fewer are entering the profession. In August, Sinelli was supposed to teach an orientation class for new members of the Ann Arbor Board of Realtors that in better times had drawn as many as two dozen people. When only five signed up, the class had to be canceled. ■

question corner

Q: There is an obnoxious odor at Plymouth Mall that seems to come from a trash canister next to the Mandarin restaurant. This strong odor has been a problem for a long time: it lingers on and its source is never removed. Why does this rank problem remain unresolved? Is there no regulation?

A: Odor regulations have been around for centuries, but quantification is difficult: efforts to develop equipment to assess smells have stumbled over the question of how unpleasantness should be measured. In Ann Arbor, odor complaints are probably best handled by the county, which can address it as part of a restaurant inspection, or by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Rather than struggle over regulation details, both of these agencies work with the parties responsible for the smell—the odor is eliminated, no one goes to court, and everyone can move on. You can call the county environmental health office at 222–3800, or the MDEQ Air Quality Division at (517) 780–7690.

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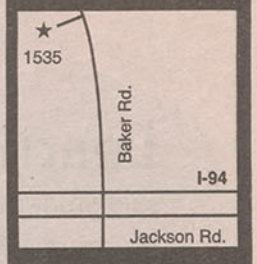

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Found art

A mystery solved at Jerusalem Garden

Jerusalem Garden has the feel of a European cafe—small and intimate. This is a favorite lunch spot for busy Ann Arborites who love Middle Eastern food. My friend Donna and I sit in the restaurant's tiny dining room. At the table next to ours, a four-year-old boy regales his mother with news of his morning at preschool. The clashing of plates and patrons' excited voices fill the air. Conversation is difficult. No matter; today I'm here on a mission.

"May I speak with the owner?" I ask the upbeat waitress as she takes our order—grape leaves for me, tabbouleh salad for Donna.

"I'll let him know you want to talk to him," the waitress says. "Meanwhile, is there something *I* can do for you?"

"No, thank you," I answer. "I've got something I've been meaning to tell him."

An attractive man, tall, dark-haired, apron-clad, approaches me. I introduce myself; we shake hands. His eyes are welcoming.

"I'm here to share a quick story," I tell him. "It took place a decade ago. It happened here."

"One day there was no sculpture in our yard; the next day it appeared," says Ali Ramlawi. "Since then I've wondered who was the patron who donated art to our restaurant."

That day in July was bright and sunny. It was a typical Ann Arbor Art Fair afternoon, when throngs of people—art connoisseurs and ordinary people with time on their hands—fill the streets and sidewalks. Ann Arbor, in the summer, is like a flower. It opens up in vivid color. It blossoms with opportunity for fun and culture. That day, in spite of the blistering heat and humidity, the city bustled with energy.

My husband, Michael, and I sat outside eating lunch at Jerusalem Garden. As at past Art Fairs, we looked forward to an extended lunch hour, stolen moments to enjoy art from around the country. We would visit our favorite jeweler and weaver to see what new pieces they had to offer.

As we ate, we watched the heavy fair traffic. A truck approached, its bed brimming with sculptures destined for one of the hundreds of booths. We watched as the truck stopped for the traffic light at Fifth and Liberty. We saw it start up again and make its way across the busy intersection. And then, in a split second, something surreal came into view. There, directly in front of our eyes, hung a fountain sculpture made of wood and copper, its metal hook resting comfortably on the branch of a tree.

Michael rose from the table, lifted the sculpture, and set it on the ground. It was a gnarled wooden trunk with a spiraling copper vine and leaves. Doubtful of finding the artist and the truck, he gently placed the sculpture in a corner of the restaurant's garden, and we went on our way.

GRIFFIN REAMES

Writer Margaret Singer, Jerusalem Garden owner Ali Ramlawi, and the sculpture that mysteriously appeared a decade ago.

It's been there ever since. Sometimes we see it in the corner of the garden closest to the street. Other years we admire it in a spot closer to the entrance. But always it's there, reminding us of that day.

I contacted the fair staff and art guild members, showing them a photo and hoping to find the person who lost this treasure, but to no avail. I always intended to tell the restaurant owner what happened that day. Today I'm finally doing it.

"I was the manager here when that happened," Ali Ramlawi tells me, smiling. "It was Art Fair, I remember. One day there was no sculpture in our yard; the next day it appeared. Since then I've wondered who was the patron who donated art to our restaurant."

As we leave and pass the inviting work of art once more, I feel satisfied. Wherever it came from, it has a good home here.

—Margaret Singer

AATA culture

The unspoken rules of riding the bus

Ann Arbor is blessed with an excellent bus system. Ann Arbor Transportation Authority buses are clean, they're cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and they travel all through the city for a low fare. When I started grad school at the U-M two years ago, I began riding the bus to and from Central Campus several days a week.

At first I was too caught up in my own worries (What stop should I get off at? What if I miss it?) to pay much attention to my fellow passengers. But after a few weeks, once I had settled into a routine, I realized that bus riding has its own culture.

For example, even though the same people gather every day at the same bus stop, none of us acknowledges that fact. We are a bunch of strangers who just happen to ride the same bus, every day, at the same time. No matter how many of us are waiting, no one engages in conversation.

But even though we don't talk, we all know the rules. For instance, you're expected to have your ID or payment in your hand (exact change only; the drivers don't make change) as you get on the bus so you don't hold up the line behind you (there's always a line, especially at five o'clock on a weekday afternoon). Once you board, the rule is never to sit next to a person in a two-person seat if you can find a seat alone. If all the seats are full, you stand near the front and hold on to a strap—unless you're a short woman (I am) and have to grab one of the metal bars instead. After you are seated or standing securely, you must not make eye contact with the other passengers: you look out the window or at your notes for class or read a book or plug in, bobbing your head in time to the music. Of course you can bob your head or sing softly under your breath when you aren't plugged in, too. I've seen that happen, believe me.

Even if someone is talking on a cell right next to you, you don't acknowledge that you can overhear the conversation. Otherwise, the caller will glare at you.

In the morning the bus is always jammed, so standees have to continually move toward the back as more and more passengers get on. This makes getting off the bus somewhat daunting: you elbow your way through the crowd exclaiming, "Excuse me! Getting off!" in your loudest voice. Once you reach the door, the challenge is to get off as quickly as you can before the bus begins moving again. Often there are people behind you, also wanting to get off, and they aren't very patient with a short-legged woman getting up the courage to jump down to a curb that seems miles away. I've taken that leap of faith many times.

All sorts of people ride the bus with me. Teenage boys who sit near the back are always plugged in. Their eyes continually sweep the bus for adversaries; they often alight on me, make eye contact briefly, and then look away. U-M students can be identified by their backpacks and their student ID cards, which allow them to ride free. Relaxed and at ease on the bus, they study and talk on their cell phones. International students speak many different languages on their phones and with each other, often at the same time. But the rule is that even if someone is talking on a cell right next to you, you don't acknowledge that you can overhear the conversation (even if it's in a language you understand) or respond in any way. Otherwise, the caller will glare at you.

Sitting next to passengers who have fallen asleep on the bus brings its own issues. Should you wake them up? What if they miss a stop and blame you? What if you wake them up too soon and they yell at you for waking them up? The best way to handle this anxiety is to make sure people are awake before you sit next to them.

There is a designated spot for wheelchairs near the front of the bus. Once a driver spent several minutes helping a wheelchair user board, and despite the delay, no one complained. But another time, when a bike rider was slow securing his bike to the rack on the front of the bus, passengers grumbled "Hurry up" and "Come on already." So I guess bus riders find it easier to be patient with someone in a wheelchair than someone riding a bike.

Finally, it is acceptable to thank the driver as you crowd up to the door to disembark. The driver usually will reply, "Have a nice day."

"You too," you say with a smile. Because once you've learned the rules, every day you ride the AATA is a nice day.

—Kathleen S. Allen

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Ann Arborites

Sara Randazzo

Tap dancing latecomer

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

When Randazzo started taking ballet at age four, she thought tap was "silly," but a week's training in New York at age thirty changed her mind. Now she teaches tap six days a week.

In her dance studio on Washtenaw, Sara Randazzo twists her hips, swings her arms, and lifts the bottoms of her black pants so her students can see her feet tap to the music. Her arms stretch long as she does a glide toward one girl, shows her the step, and then winks as the student picks it up.

A few minutes later, she stops the dozen young students, boys and girls, and makes them listen to the sounds of two versions of a dance move. "Total contact. Total contact into the ground. . . . You've got to *hah, hah, hah,*" she says, smacking her heels onto the wooden floor. Soon the floor reverberates and the recorded music blares as the group picks up the pace, practicing Fats Waller numbers for concerts on December 1 and 2 (see Events, p. 67).

Fair haired and brown eyed, with a dancer's slender figure, Randazzo, forty-eight, is on her fourth tap class of the day in her eponymous studio, but she's not about to slow down. Her expressive face alternates between big beaming grins, thoughtful observation, and the occasional grimace when the students slack off. "Are you listening to me or are you discussing life?" she impatiently asks a couple of whispering students. More often she suggests or praises.

Randazzo's mother, Marjorie, opened the studio in 1940 in Ypsilanti. Sara started taking ballet at four, and by seventeen she was teaching. Yet only after she turned thirty did Randazzo discover her true passion: tap. She remembers thinking as a kid that making percussive sounds with metal plates on the toes and heels of dancing shoes was "silly." That changed when, at a weekend workshop, she met a dancer in the troupe of tap star Brenda Bufalino. The dancer encouraged her, and Randazzo went to New York for a week of training. A little more training and she was hooked. "I always wanted to play drums," she says—and the floor became those drums.

"Total contact. Total contact into the ground. . . . You've got to hah, hah, hah," *Randazzo says, smacking her heels onto the wooden floor. Soon the floor reverberates and the recorded music blares as the group picks up the pace.*

"I'm sort of the traveling tap lady of Michigan," Randazzo says. She teaches each week in Ann Arbor and Chelsea and at Eastern Michigan University and occasionally even gets to Traverse City—where her mother is still active as a dance instructor.

Although her studio offers classes in ballet, jazz, and other dance forms, Randazzo now enjoys the luxury of teaching only tap. (She and her business partner, Heidi Vitso, employ a group of part-time teachers.) Most of Randazzo's own performances are done with a small live jazz ensemble. Though older than some of the dancers by twenty-five years or more, she keeps up and even sometimes outpaces the others.

Randazzo choreographs a handful of shows a year—for herself, for her students, and sometimes for other dance groups. "Her creative energy is just unbelievable," says Meredith Brown, a Huron High senior who began training with Randazzo at age four. "It's something new every year," says Brown—dancing on sand one year, on stairs another.

"She was my teacher, yes, but she was also a constant mentor, supporter, cheerleader, and friend," says Meghan Finn, who also studied with Randazzo through high school and now helps run a small theater company in Brooklyn, New York.

Her late-life embrace of tap was a happy turning point for Randazzo, who grew up feeling overshadowed by her mother and by her brother, Anthony, who became a professional dancer with San Francisco Ballet and is now ballet master for Boston Ballet. As a teen, Randazzo never felt her ballet was good enough. "It was very hard for me . . . hard on my self-esteem," she recalls. So she turned from ballet to jazz dancing and went to Michigan State, where she studied urban planning. But she wasn't in love with urban planning, and her mother needed help, so after graduation she returned to Ann Arbor. They ran the studio together from 1980 to 2001. (Her parents are divorced; her father, Don, a former dancer, now works in the area as a home inspector and carpenter.)

To Randazzo's satisfaction, boys as well as girls have flocked to her tap class. With the tap dancing she mixes some rap, drums, and even basketball, all of which helps attract the guys. She even directs an all-male troupe, the Lowell Street Boys, composed of about twenty boys from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Randazzo is divorced and the mother of two daughters. Stella, a freshman at Community, dances jazz and ballet "and a little tap." Maria, a Pioneer senior, prefers working in the studio office to dancing.

Between classes at the studio, in Chelsea, and at EMU, Randazzo often teaches six days a week—she reserves Sunday for her own rehearsals. Still, her load is lighter than it was a few years ago, when she was teaching at Ardis Elementary School in Ypsilanti all day and then running to the studio and teaching the rest of the afternoon, plus evenings. "I still work seven days a week—just fewer hours," she says with a smile. She acknowledges that as she ages, "sometimes I worry about being able to continue to dance at this pace . . . but anything else I pursue will most likely involve music in some way. If I can use music and dance to make people's lives better, that's what I'd like to do."

—Vickie Elmer

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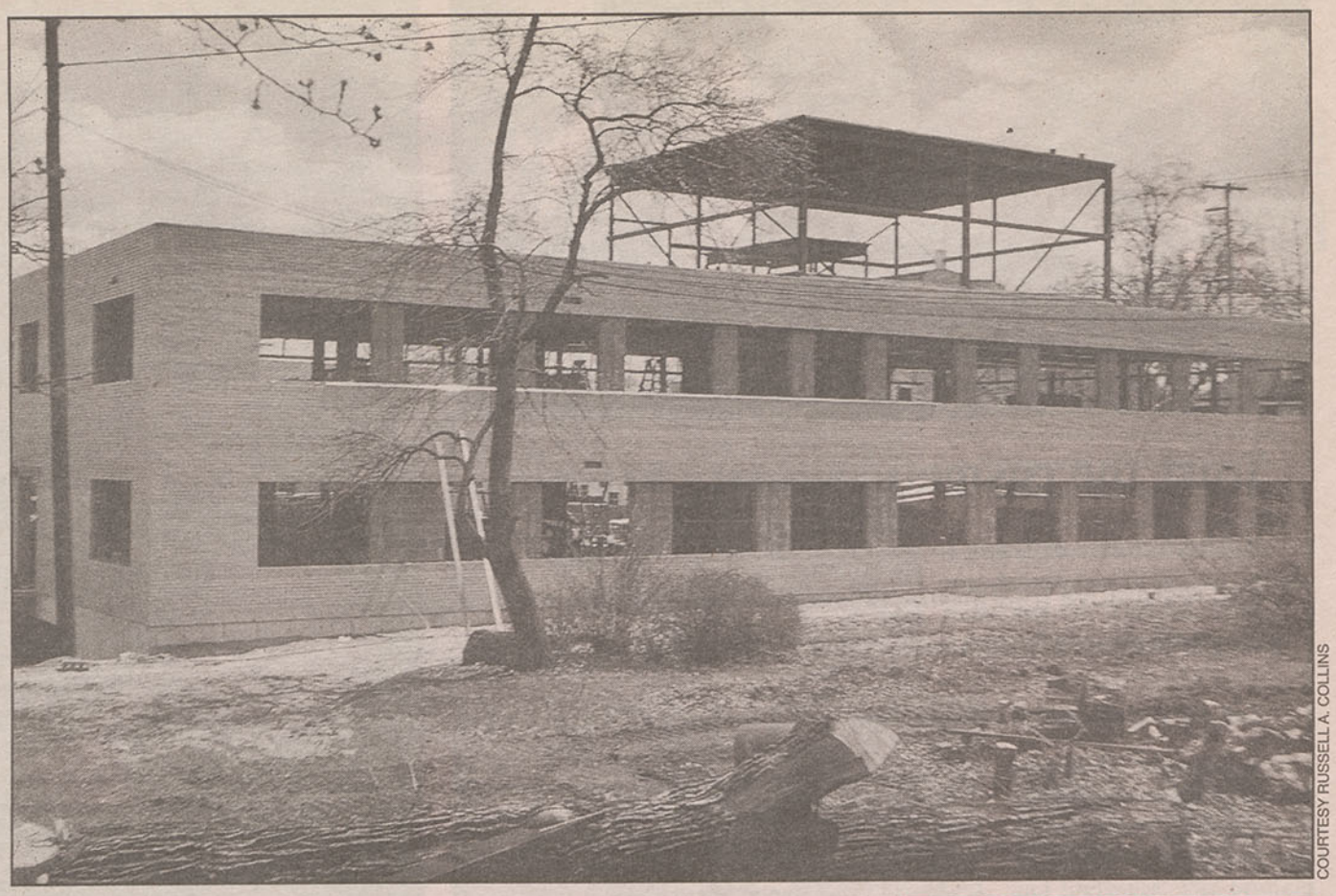
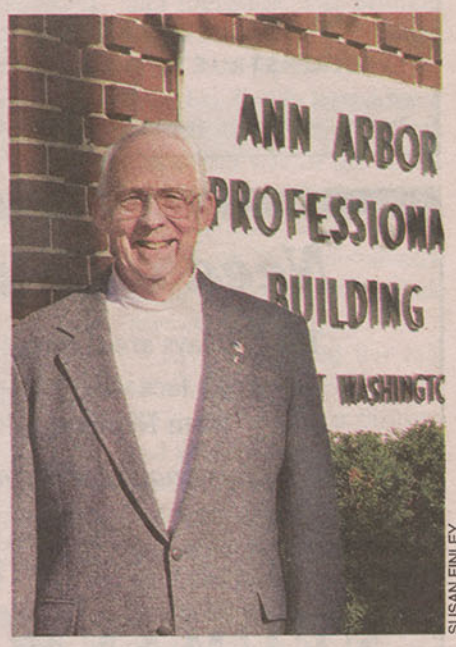
425 East Washington

A professional co-op faces demolition



COURTESY RUSSELL A. COLLINS

(Above) When the Ann Arbor Professional Building opened in 1962, it was downtown's first multistory building since World War II. Dental technician Russ Collins (right) helped organize the group that built it, and he still has his office there. Developer Mike Concannon, who bought the building in November, plans to tear it down and put up a nineteen-story building on the site.



SUSAN FINLEY

The professional building at 425 East Washington isn't historic in any ordinary sense—it's not in any architecture books, and no one is protesting its recent sale and planned demolition. But it looms large in the heart and mind of Russ Collins, one of its original owners, and the one that will likely be the last to leave.

It's hard to imagine now, but in 1962, when 425 East Washington opened, it was downtown's first multistory building since World War II. "Four of us wanted a cottage-type dental business," recalls Collins, a dental technician who has been in the same office on the second floor for forty-five years. But, he says, "it kept growing."

The project was organized in 1959 by Collins, dentist Hugh Cooper, orthodontist Robert Ponitz, and periodontist Robert Nissle. "Hugh Cooper's dad was a Realtor," recalls Collins. "He said to us that he knew of a place that had three lots available and told us to grab it. We grabbed it before we had a plan."

The three lots extended through the block between Huron and Washington east of Division. Two were vacant, and one had a home on it, and the four men paid a total of $114,000 for all three. "I thought it was a lot of money," Collins recalls, but as other dentists and doctors heard about the project, they signed on as additional tenant-owners. Eventually there were fourteen corporate members, and instead of a small, shared dental office, they were drawing up plans for a multistory medical building complete with a pharmacy and an underground parking garage.

Collins was the only one who hadn't gone to college—"a peon Missourian," he says humbly, "involved with all these superintellectuals." He came to both dental work and Michigan through Jack Bartlett, a dentist he met in the air force in the 1950s—Collins remembers Bartlett saying, "Why don't we do gold [dental] work?" After Collins's discharge in 1955, his wife, Dorothy, joined him in New York City—but though they had three months to "just watch the world go by," Dorothy soon began feeling unwell. So they drove back home to Missouri in Russ's new Austin Healey sports car—where Dorothy's mother informed her she was pregnant.

"Russ was a total surprise," says Collins of his firstborn, who today is executive director of the Michigan Theater. "Russ was the reason we got rid of the Healey."

Dorothy's dad was an auto salesman, and when one of his customers offered to swap a new Jaguar for Collins's new Austin Healey, Collins took the deal. "I sold it," he recalls. "It was one of the best investments I ever made."

That is, until 425.

Young Russ (Russell B.—Collins is Russell A.) was born in Detroit in May 1956. Jack Bartlett helped Collins get into the business and opened doors with other dentists, including a growing number from Ann Arbor. At Hugh Cooper's urging, the family moved here in 1958, and Dorothy gave birth to Russ's little brother, Doug, in 1959—the same year the partners started to organize 425 East Washington.

Collins's office still has the original flooring and ceiling—"Asbestos, horsehair, everything else is in it," he says. Collins doesn't lose sleep about banned building materials—he thinks people worry too much about such things.

"Professional people could not own a co-op legally," Collins recalls, so they formed an S corporation, with members owning shares according to the space they rented in the building. Once all the arrangements were in place, the building itself took less than a year to construct. The members leased just one office to a nonowner—internist Harriet Shoecraft—so they could justify the rents they charged themselves.

Collins's own office, on the second floor, has a wonderful view, and that's about the only thing that has changed since he moved in—the buildings and landscape outside his windows. The office still has the original flooring and ceiling—"Asbestos, horsehair, everything else is in it," he says. Healthy except for a stroke he suffered some years ago, he doesn't lose sleep about banned building materials—he thinks people worry too much about such things.

Though 425 East Washington has scarcely changed physically, its tenant mix has shifted. It "was taken over by head doctors," Collins says. Until recently, more than thirty therapists called the building home.

The other big change is that its tenants no longer own it. The group held on to the building until 1995, when the members started dying off. Though all four original partners are still alive, the group decided to sell. Collins says Tom Stockton of Oakland Management paid $1 million for the building. "We never made money in the operation of it," says Collins. "But we did in the sale."

This summer the tenants were notified that the building was being sold again—this time to a buyer who planned to tear it down. Attorney and developer Mike Concannon says he wants to build a nineteen-story mixed-use building on the site—a combination of retail, offices, and high-end student apartments, with a restaurant on the top floor.

Concannon guesses that the current tenants will have to move out in about a year, but he is hoping that many will move back into the new building; he says the office space will be designed with therapists in mind. While they'll have to relocate temporarily between "demolishing the old [and] delivering the new," as he puts it, some have already expressed interest.

In the meantime, though, Concannon is looking for short-term tenants for the existing building. Many of the therapists, Collins grumbles, have already moved out, "like rats off a sinking ship." As for Collins, the last of 425's original captains seems determined to go down with the vessel. "I'll be here until they have to carry me out," he says.

—Jan Schlain

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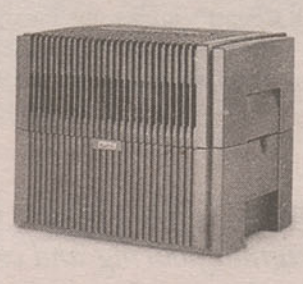

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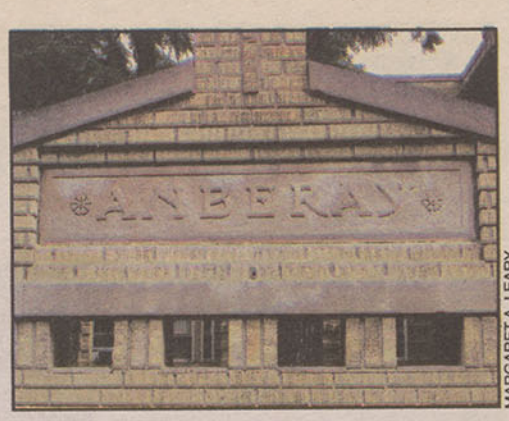

MARGARET A. LEARY

Ida Olmstead Cook (below) sued the U-M over her ex-husband Will Cook's estate. The case was settled out of court, enabling the university to complete work on the Law Quad—and Ida ended up living only a block away, in the Anberay Apartments. Then one of the city's most desirable rental addresses, the Anberay was demolished in September to make way for "Zaragon Place," a ten-story apartment building.

Mrs. Cook of the Anberay

She fought the U-M for Will Cook's wealth

Visitors to the U-M's handsome Collegiate Gothic law quadrangle are incredulous when they hear that the donor, William W. Cook, never saw the buildings, made his gifts anonymously, and did not want his name on any of the structures.

But it's all true: Cook was too sick with tuberculosis to travel from Manhattan to Ann Arbor after the Lawyers Club was finished in 1925. He also may have worried that reality would not match what he imagined, and that if he visited, he would be subjected to pleas for more money. In any case, Cook, who graduated from the Literary College in 1880 and added a law degree in 1882, died in 1930 never having returned to Ann Arbor. Only after he was gone did the regents name the Cook Legal Research Building and the Cook Law Quadrangle in his honor.

Cook did not see the buildings—but Ida Olmstead Cook, the New York woman he married in 1889 and divorced in 1898, did. She lived briefly across the street in the Michigan Union, and then, with her niece, in the Anberay Apartments at 619 East University from 1940 until her death in 1942. The first of a generation of new apartments that went up after World War I, the "Chicago style" Anberay was at the time one of the city's most desirable rental addresses—early tenants included U-M athletic director Fielding Yost, medical dean A. C. Furstenberg, and archaeologist Francis Kelsey.

Ida Cook's father was an influential New York City lawyer and real estate investor. She met Will at a social event there, and he was certain they were a perfect couple. She hesitated, protested, and expressed grave doubts, but they were married in February 1889. Several separations followed, and in 1898 she began a divorce, on grounds of desertion, in North Dakota, which was briefly the divorce capital of the country. Will counterclaimed, stating that she had deserted him, and the divorce was his. There was no mention of children, property, or alimony.

Family legend has it that by 1940, Ida was a bit nutty and would wander the streets of Ann Arbor offering to tell what she knew about William Cooks's sex life. Unfortunately, family legend does not include her stories.

Despite the divorce, Ida consistently called herself Mrs. William W. Cook in census records and various directories. Will, on the other hand, usually checked the "single" box, even when offered the option of "divorced." Ida kept with her, until her death, the letters in which Will begged her to marry him and, during their separation, promised her a townhouse if they could reconcile. Apparently they had lived with her parents, which may have contributed to their problems.

COURTESY MARGARET A. LEARY

When Will died in June 1930, he left his entire estate, ultimately, to the U-M. University officials were elated—they needed the money to complete work on the Legal Research Building and Hutchins Hall, for which Cook had been writing checks. But elation turned to anxiety a few months later, when Ida—one of whose lawyers was William Gibbs McAdoo, architect of the Federal Reserve and of finance for World War I—sued for half of the estate. She claimed that the divorce was invalid and that she therefore was his widow. The estate was valued at $12 million at his death, which would be about $148 million today.

The university's lawyers, guided by regent James Murfin, positioned themselves to go to trial over the claim, and briefs were exchanged over several months. Finally, in early 1932, the parties settled. Ida received $160,000 and the university got the rest—depleted by the effects of the early Depression.

Ida lived in California with her sister until 1940, when her sister's daughter, Beatrice Borst, enrolled at Michigan as a graduate student in English language and literature. She brought along her recently orphaned niece and nephew—and her Aunt Ida. Family legend has it that Ida was by then a bit nutty and would wander the streets of Ann Arbor offering to tell what she knew about William Cook's sex life. Unfortunately, family legend does not include her stories.

Ida Cook lived her last years within yards of the buildings her former husband had paid for, and still in possession of the love letters he had written her. William Cook died believing he had enabled the U-M Law School to improve the country by improving the education of lawyers. Perhaps both died feeling they had what they most desired.

—Margaret A. Leary

In September, eighty-four years after it was built, the Anberay was demolished—a victim of the city's latest apartment boom. Chicago developer Zaragon Inc. plans to build a ten-story apartment building on the site.

No Crime Map this month

The Ann Arbor Police Department is switching to a new database system and was unable to provide October crime data in time for this month's issue. October and November crimes will appear on next month's map.

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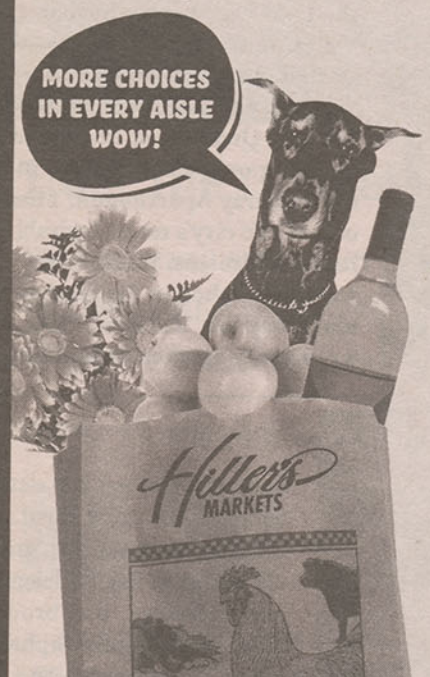

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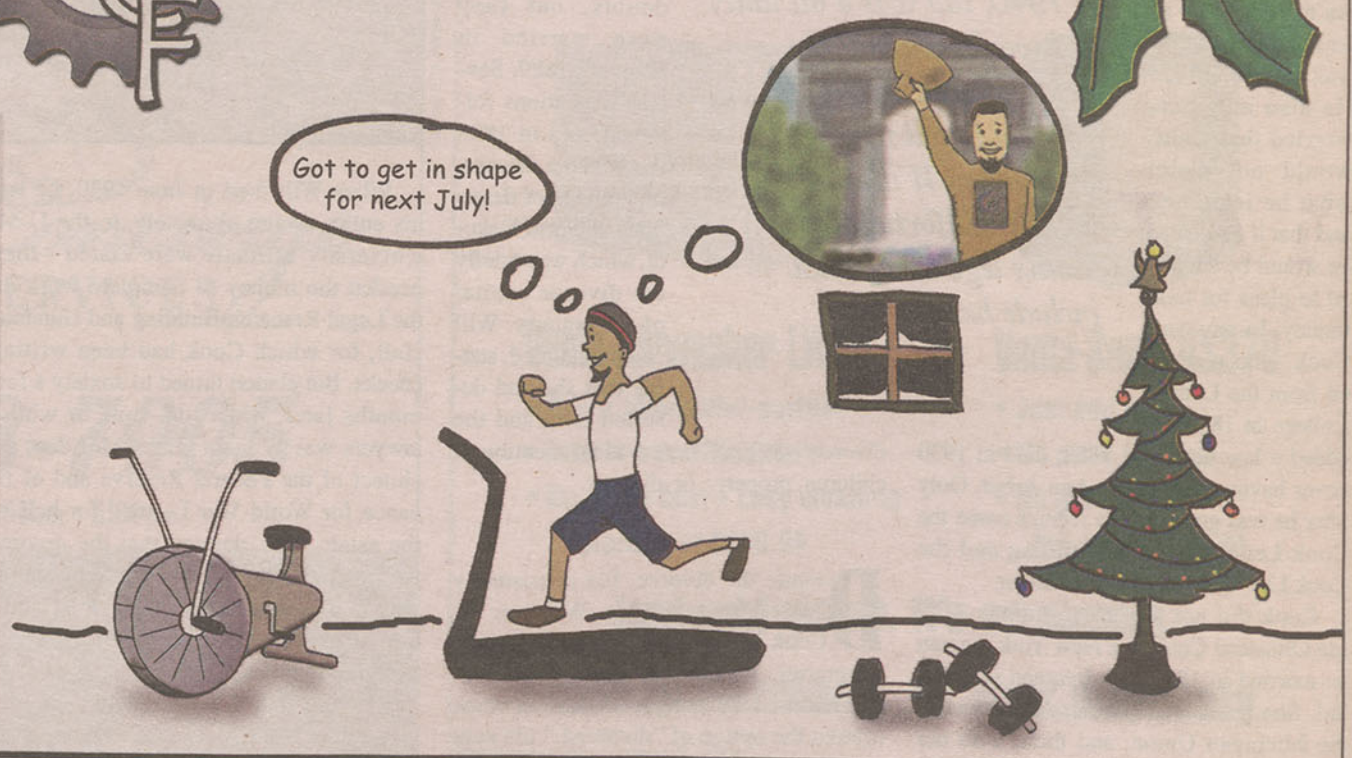

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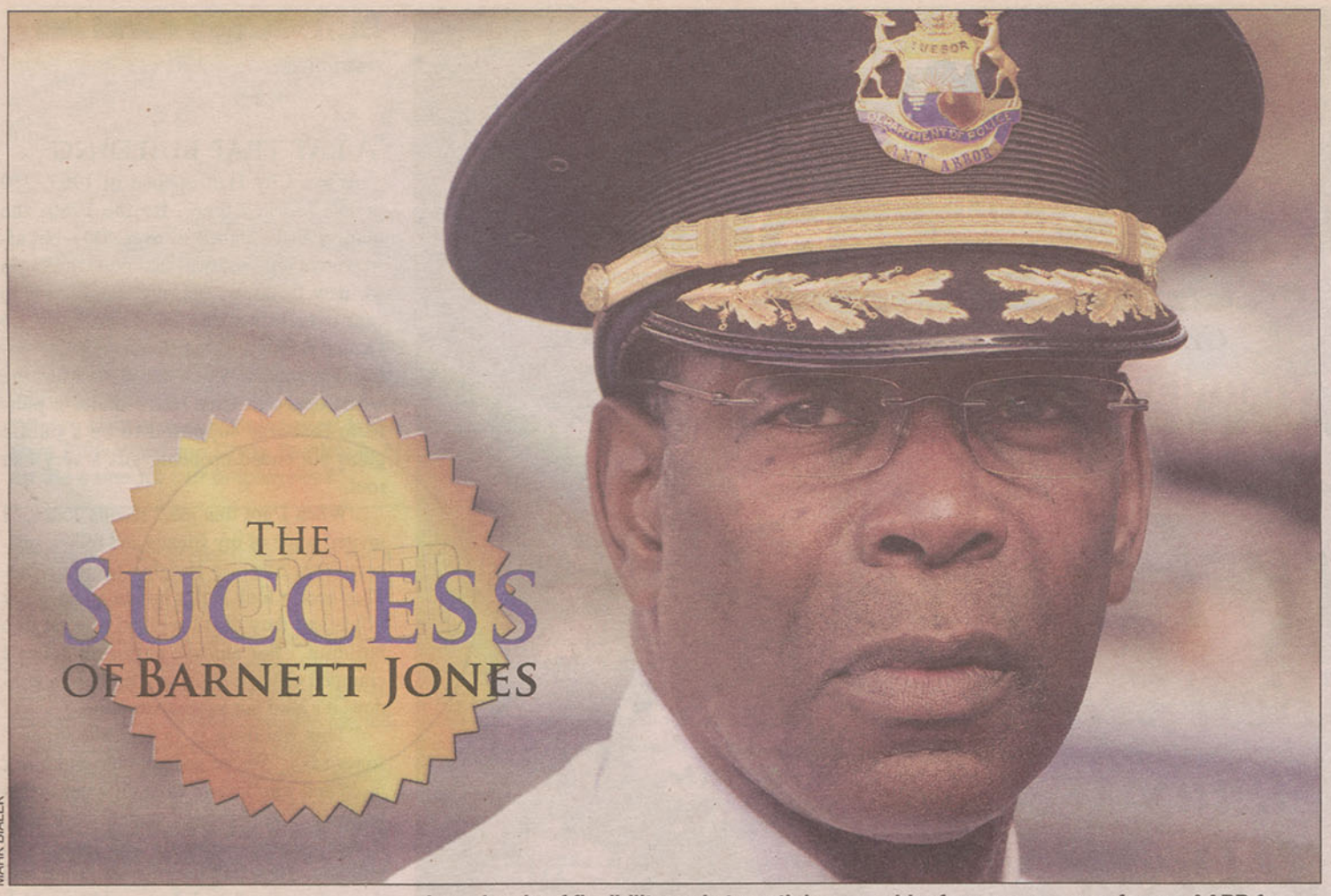

MARK BIALEK

Jones's mix of flexibility and strength has won him fans even among former AAPD foes.

In just eighteen months, the police chief has won the respect of his force—and made progress on a long-promised new headquarters.

by James Leonard

When Barnett Jones came to Ann Arbor in June 2006, he was the city's fourth chief of police in a dozen years. Like his predecessors, he took office facing three seemingly unsolvable problems: a cramped and run-down headquarters, hostile unions, and an element of the city's population that just doesn't trust cops.

Yet only a year and a half into Jones's watch, his progress is astonishing. In October city council authorized architects to draw up plans for a new police headquarters and courthouse (see box, p. 31). Four of the five police unions have reached agreements with the city. And relations with the citizenry, if not yet perfect, have notably improved.

How could this have happened—and happened so quickly? After all, as city administrator Roger Fraser notes, "it's been over twenty years since council approved a new [police] building—and so far we have failed to deliver." Council representative Joan Lowenstein says they'd even promised Dan Oates, Jones's predecessor, a new headquarters when he arrived from New York in 2001—a promise that was still unmet when Oates left in 2005.

The building, though, wasn't the reason Oates moved on so soon. From his new post in Aurora, Colorado, the former chief says the core problem was a poisonous relationship with the department's unions. "My career there was way more a battle with unions than with criminals," says Oates. "There's a culture in the AAPD that says that any change offered by the chief is presumptively bad and should be presumptively resisted."

Why had the city continually failed to deliver on a new headquarters? And why have the unions always distrusted their chief? Some say that in hard economic times, it's about the money. Others say that in times of shrinking police forces, it's about job security. Jones agrees on both points—but he also says that fundamentally, both issues come down to respect.

With the unions, "I'm going against boards that have a history of banging heads with the chief," Jones says. "No matter who the chief was, they didn't trust him." Sniping from subordinates crippled both Oates and his predecessor, Carl Ent—so Jones has made it his mission to restore mutual respect between the department's leaders and the rank and file.

The other side of the coin is the public's respect for the police. "There are two great institutions in this country that don't get the respect they deserve: the military and the police," says Jones, fifty-five. "They are the people who are committed to giving their lives for your freedom and safety, and people need to be more respectful of them. Some people might not like war—I don't like war—but they need to respect war. It's the same thing with the police. Some people might not like the police, but they need to respect the police."

Jones says when he talks about Ann Arborites' lack of respect for the police, he's not talking about everyone—just "a select group of people. Maybe they have something, some incident from the sixties or the seventies or the fifties, and they just don't trust cops."

Echoes of that attitude, he says, can be heard on city council. "I respect them and I believe we have respectful relationships," Jones says. "But some of them—I'm not naming names—view us as a necessary evil."

Respect is Jones's core issue. Part of it comes from his upbringing, part from his career, but in the end "it all comes from God." And respect, Jones insists, is what made the difference with both his fellow officers and the city council.

Fewer Cops, Less Crime

Born in Ann Arbor in 1952 and raised by his Baptist grandparents on small farms in Tilbury, Ontario, and Lorain, Ohio, Jones has been a cop for thirty-one years. He's worked in law enforcement all over southeastern Michigan—on the beat in Inkster, with the Oakland County sheriff, and most recently as Sterling Heights' police chief—before returning to his hometown in June 2006.

It wasn't entirely a step up. When he got here, Jones says, he found "the [financially] poorest police department I've ever worked for." In contrast, he says, "the departments I came from had the money and the wherewithal to do things and do things right."

Asked whether the AAPD is poor, mayor John Hieftje replies, "I don't know about that. But I would point out that as the size of the department goes down, the crime rate goes down, too."

That's amazing but true. Over the last ten years, the number of cops in the AAPD dropped 25 percent, from 201 to 149—but at the same time, the city's crime rate fell 38 percent. From 2005 to 2006 alone, it dropped 15 percent, and as of September, it's down another 7 percent. "We've gotten better because we've had to get better," explains Jones. "As we've lost more police officers, we've gotten smarter about where we put the police officers we do have."

Despite this success, the chief hardly considers the war on crime won. "I want the department to be more active," Jones says. "I want to write more tickets, to make more traffic stops, to make more arrests. If we do, the crime rate will drop."

The top two local crimes saw the biggest drops last year: larceny, down 9 percent; and burglary, down 8 percent. Nationally, the decline in crime is often attributed to demographic changes—young men, the most crime-prone group, are a shrinking part of the population. But it's also clear that in Ann Arbor, aggressive policing deserves some of the credit. Jones is especially proud that breaking-and-entering arrests are up an amazing 46 percent.

"We've got good officers on these calls—officers who are active in the community," says Jones. "If the bad guy gets two or three blocks away, there's another cop. And if they get past that, I've got good detectives following up and investigating. Plus—and this is very important—citizens are giving better descriptions. They're trusting us more."

Jones mentions a robbery last year at the TCF bank at Pauline and Stadium: "A young lady—I call her young though she was probably in her sixties—saw a man with a hoodie on leave the bank acting suspiciously. So she got his license plate number and called us, and then she waited there for us. That used to be rare, and it happens all the time now."

Jones sees this cooperation as evidence of citizens' growing respect for cops. "We've got to keep doing what we're doing, the way we're doing it. We've got to be right with the people; then the people will be right with us. If we are, the majority of the people will respect us."

That's all good—but it took more than respect to get a new police headquarters past the talking stage. The real secret was figuring out a financial plan that didn't raise taxes.

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"A RAT TRAP BUILDING"

When City Hall opened in 1963, 270 people worked there. By the 1980s the number had climbed to over 400—but after voters repeatedly turned down millages for new facilities, the only change was to rent overflow space in the nearby City Center Building. That didn't help the police department, which has always had the worst space in City Hall—under a platform that was supposed to be a public plaza but ended up being just a very bad roof.

"When I got this job," recalls Jones, "I invited some of my friends and fellow officers from Sterling Heights to come out. They took a look at this building and at my office and they said I worked in a rat trap building." For anyone sitting in Jones's cramped office with its single slit of a window, it's hard not to see their point.

"This building is in terrible shape," Jones says. "We've got asbestos and black mold and who knows what growing in this building. The first day I started work here, it was raining—outside and inside the building. They had buckets set up up and down the stairs." And, Jones adds, the leak still isn't fixed: "They've tried many, many times, but they can't fix it because of the platform. And yet some people laugh at me when I say we've got to get a new building."

Jones calls that lack of respect—and he's not the only one. "With some people, there is a lack of respect for the police," says one high-ranking city official who asked to remain anonymous. "The problem with a new building is less about economics and more about a lack of respect. Just ask the chief to look at the conditions in the basement. I'm embarrassed for the city that the police are housed in such conditions. It is just wrong."

David Cahill, one of the most vocal critics of a new headquarters, sees things differently. "They're talking about a building that would have three times the exist-

MARK BIALEK

First Ward rep Sabra Briere believes the campaign to expand City Hall "has nothing to do with the police."

MARK BIALEK

"We've built a new maintenance facility for our trucks," says Fifth Ward rep Chris Easthope. "How could we not do the same for our employees?"

ing size in a time of shrinking arrests and a shrinking police department," says the local attorney. "I don't see it."

Cahill isn't alone in his opposition—and one of his allies is especially well placed to influence the decision. In November his wife, Sabra Briere, was elected to city council from the First Ward.

"I am not for the proposal," Briere says. "The police force is shrinking and so is crime." And she says that putting the issue in terms of respect for the police is just a political smoke screen.

"It has nothing to do with the police," Briere says. "The police department is being used as a mechanism to build a bigger, larger building because other efforts have not been successful. Saying it's about respect is like saying that being against a military buildup is being unpatriotic."

"It *is* about lack of respect," responds Fifth Ward rep Chris Easthope. "We've built a new maintenance facility for our trucks. How could we not do the same for our employees?"

For decades, of course, the answer has been that however much it might want to, the city just didn't have the money to expand City Hall. The project finally came to life, says city administrator Roger Fraser, only when "we came up with a plan with no increase to the general operating budget."

How is that possible? "We currently spend four hundred thousand dollars annually to rent space for the district courts," Fraser explains, "plus we have leases for probation staff and leases for the space at the City Center Building. With this plan, we could consolidate that into money for [repaying] bonds. And don't forget, we've had the DDA on our side all along." Downtown Development Authority executive director Susan Pollay says that though it's too early to know exactly how much the DDA will contribute, the number will be "in the millions."

Mayor Hieftje isn't convinced—not because he's opposed to a new police building, but because he thinks it's too big a stretch given the state's economic turmoil. When council voted 7–4 in October to spend $4 million to design the new facility, Hieftje joined council members Ron Suarez, Bob Johnson, and Stephen Kunselman in voting No.

To some, the $4 million commitment means the new building is a done deal. "We've passed the point of no return," says Hieftje. "I could veto, it but I'm reluctant to do so. In these very unstable financial times in Michigan, we need a council that's working together."

Others—including some supporters of the headquarters—aren't so sure. "There's momentum," says Fraser. "We'll see how well it stays on track." Easthope agrees: "It's never done until it's done."

What could derail the project now? For one thing, council has two new members, Briere and Fifth Ward rep Mike Anglin—and both, in their primary campaigns, questioned the need for a new building. And even supporters warn that costs could still kill the deal. "We have to be able to do it without raising taxes or cutting services or we won't do it," says Second Ward rep Joan Lowenstein. "If it's impossible to do it at the price cap we decide on, it's not going to go."

"I don't think it's a done deal," says Briere. "There still is no clear funding stream. It really bothers me, and it should bother others, too. There is a credibility gap between what's been said and what's the truth."

When she joins the council, Briere says, she intends to "find out everything about how we got to where we are [on the project]. I'm not going to take anybody's word for it. At that point, I'll be in a position to argue sensibly."

Does Briere believe she can derail the project? "Maybe," she replies. "You never know until you try."

Chief Jones agrees with Briere—at least about the potential for killing the project. "Until there's construction crews and machines working away, there's always that opportunity," he says.

Jones is under no illusions about what kind of new headquarters the department will get—if it gets one. "We know it's got to be a no-frills, no-extras building," he says. "But it'll be the best building we can do with the money available."

Jones is grateful the project is finally moving ahead: "You've got to give the decision makers credit. They recognized that even in times like these, you have to do what's right." And he admits that the council vote came as a pleasant surprise.

"It was one of those aha! moments, when you realize the large degree to which people are on your side," he says. "Most of the people in Ann Arbor, they're typical Americans. They're quietly living their lives, and mostly they're happy with what they've got. But if there's a rallying point, they'll be there for you. And they were."

WOOING THE UNIONS

Along with the new headquarters, the biggest challenge Jones faced when he took the job was the police unions' history of implacable hostility to the chief. ◗

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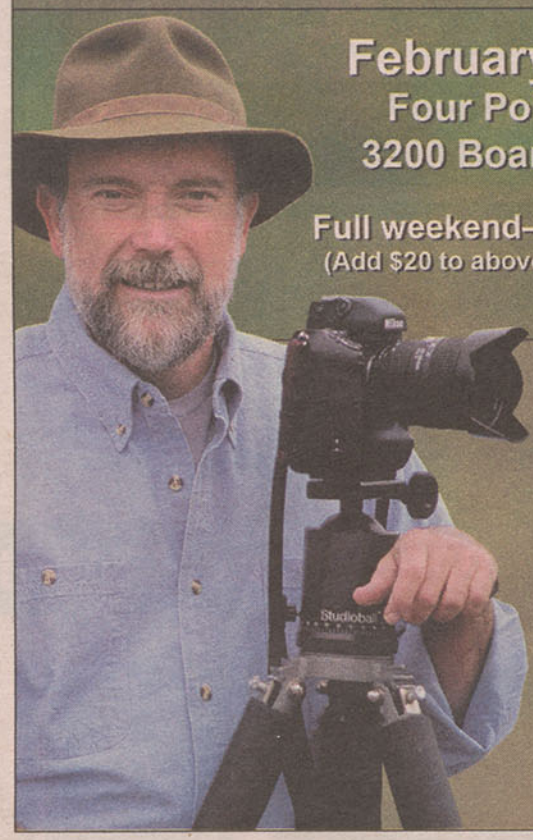
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The SUCCESS of Barnett Jones

continued

"I found a police department in which the unions didn't trust the office of the chief," Jones says. "But I'm committed to changing the culture of this police department. I've got to cut through the culture. I've got to cut through the BS. It's going to take time, and it's got to take time. But I will do it."

He's already made impressive progress. Bill Stanford, outgoing president of the Ann Arbor Police Officers Association, represents the detectives, rank-and-file officers, and civilian employees of the department. He remembers his relationship with Dan Oates as "extremely volatile. We fought over everything." But Stanford stresses that his relationship with Jones has been "a hundred and ten percent better.

"Chief Jones cares about his people, and he's a cop's cop," Stanford says. "I've worked for sheriffs, generals, and many, many chiefs, and he's the fairest, most reasonable man I've ever come across. From a union point of view, I couldn't ask for anything more."

Jones thinks it helped that "I've demonstrated that I'm a hands-on chief. I work details at the football game. I've written tickets. I'm on the street. I'm not on the street as much as I'd like, but I'm on the street.

"Do I have some knuckleheads here?" Jones continues. "Sure I do, and if I worked in the private sector, I'd just hand them their final check. But I don't work in the private sector, and I have to work with them, and I do work with them."

He apparently works with them very well. By the end of October, every union but the police officers had signed contracts with the city. "There were hard issues, including health insurance, on the table," says Fraser, "but there was no acrimony in the negotiations."

Though union head Stanford agrees that relations are better, he says that overall, negotiations are going "about like always." But he adds that he doesn't blame Jones for the fact that his own union still hasn't got a contract.

"Frankly, I don't know if the city has the right people in the room with us," Stanford says. "If Chief Jones and I sat down together, we'd probably hammer it out in less than two hours."

GOD AND TAXES

That's high praise coming from a union chief. But nobody we talked with had anything bad to say about Jones. Fraser's comments are typical: "He's a compassionate, strong-willed, flexible cop. He loves his profession. He loves dealing with people and he loves helping people. He's a first-class police officer, and he expects the same. I consider B.J.—we call him B.J.—one of my successes, and I regard him as a friend."

But praise alone doesn't pay the bills—and no one knows better than Jones that his department will continue to be called upon to make sacrifices as long as the fiscal crisis continues. In fact, before the

state budget agreement in October, it looked as though the police would lose another $2 million in revenue sharing—out of a total budget of $25 million.

Though the state saved revenue sharing this year, many believe it—along with everything else—will be up for grabs again next year. If revenue sharing goes, Jones says, the department could lose not only its surveillance and narcotics units but its downtown beat cops, too.

"We're mindful that this is Michigan, and that *tax* is a dirty word," says Jones. "But I would remind the taxpayers that if you don't pay for police officers on the streets, crime will go up. Hopefully, we're not going to pay more taxes—but we don't get to decide what's a priority and what's a luxury. The people in Lansing do. And there are some people there who think that police and fire protection are a luxury."

Jones chuckles—that's clearly one of the most ridiculous thing he's ever heard. "To me, it's all about respecting authority," he explains. "All authority was granted to man, but it all comes from God. Now God puts all people on earth with a plan and a purpose. And I was meant to be a police officer. To me, it's a calling."

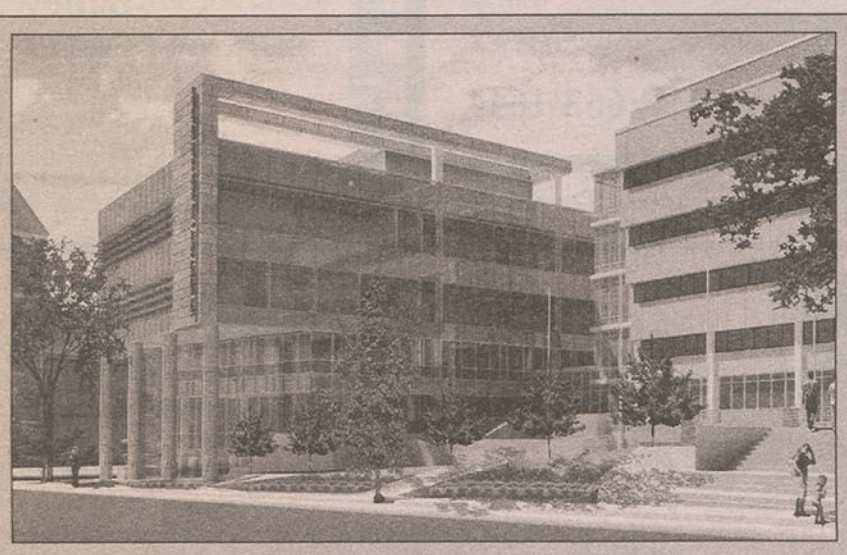
God apparently called Jones to be not just a cop but a preacher, too. "I was raised by my grandmother to be a Baptist minister," he says, "and I've become an apostolic Pentecostal preacher, so she wasn't too far off." Ordained in 2002, Jones currently leads the Friday night outreach ministry at the Apostolic Church, an interracial Pentecostal congregation in Auburn Hills.

How does Jones reconcile his roles as a cop and a preacher? "God is in everything, and he's always been in everything I've ever done," he answers. "When I was a little boy praying to be a police office, he was in me. I always have to be respectful and I always have to be mindful, because God is working through me."

Jones has the Good Samaritan thing down: "When I was walking the beat in Inkster, I remember arresting homeless guys on Fridays so they'd have some place to stay over the weekend—you know, make sure they've got a warm cot and something to eat."

As far as turning the other cheek, however, Jones has a whole different point of view. "God wants us as Christians to love everybody," he says, "but there's good people and bad people.

"Let's put it this way: I love you like a brother—but I'm telling you, if you're disrespectful to me by hitting me, I'm going to hit you back." ■



The New Headquarters

City council voted in October to proceed with architectural work on a new police headquarters and courts building (see main story). Many crucial details, however, still need to be worked out—starting with how much it will cost.

"The general framework is fairly well defined," says city administrator Roger Fraser. "We are planning for approximately a hundred thousand square feet of enclosed space on four floors. The building would sit just west of the existing City Hall, with the length of the new building paralleling Fifth Avenue and consuming most of the frontage between Huron and Ann. The four floors would sit above secure parking at grade."

The plan from Quinn Evans Architects puts the police on the bottom two floors and the courts on the top two—thereby doubling the 24,000 square feet currently occupied by the police. The architects propose a "contemporary" aesthetic, "with an exterior conceived as a combination of rather traditional materials: brick, copper, and glass"—though they add that financial considerations might mandate substituting tin for copper.

"Because this project relies on all of our downtown operations' being located on this site," Fraser continues, "certain remodeling will be required in the existing building to accommodate all those uses that will not be in the new building." This means renovations for the Larcom Building—new elevators and toilets, plus a thorough and complete removal of mold, mildew, and asbestos.

The Quinn Evans plan also describes a new "community meeting space east of the Larcom Building," an atrium connecting the new and old buildings, and "a landscaped plaza and garden facing Huron." But "we have to presume, in this environment, that nothing is certain until it is done," stresses Fraser. "Council looked at conceptual plans that, if executed, would exceed our budget. Thus, the general outline of the plan was accepted with the expectation that staff would work with the architects during the coming weeks to refine the project to fit our financial expectations."

Even those expectations aren't yet fully defined. Quinn Evans say the price for the building as outlined could run anywhere from $33 million to $57 million. In this environment, $57 million is probably out of the question. So council will have to negotiate a lot of trade-offs before it approves a final design. *—J.L.*

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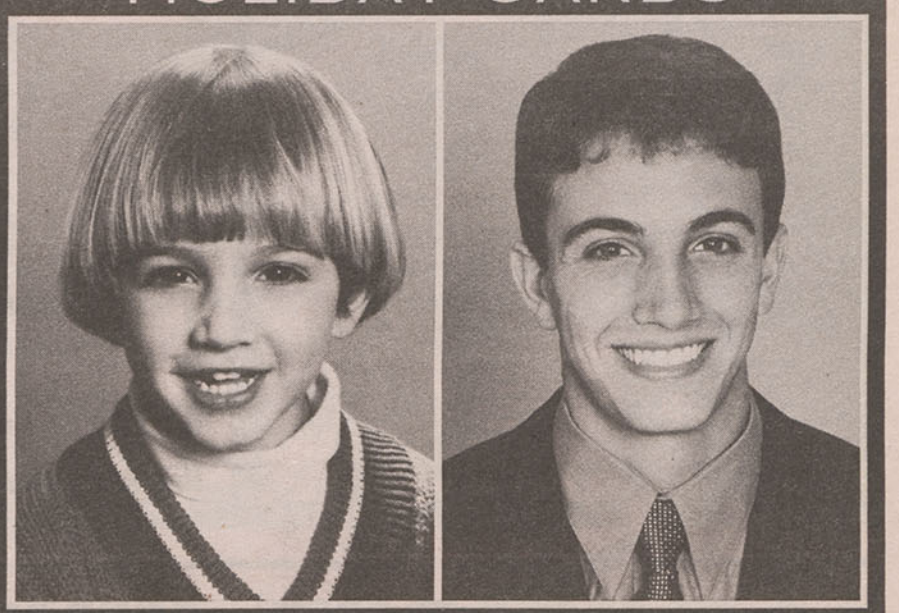
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Geek Chic

by Lara Zielin

Ann Arbor has always had plenty of smart, obsessive techies. But what does it mean to be a geek now that they're cool?

MARK BIALEK

Ann Arbor Computer Society president Duane Collicott spent six months constructing his Lego replica of a Great Lakes freighter. A software developer and stay-at-home dad, he has his own blog, stayathomegeek.com.

A recent article in *Wired* magazine joked that TV network executives must have circulated a memo stating that "geek chic is going mainstream," because brainy underdogs are suddenly everywhere on prime time. They're stars on shows like *Chuck, Ugly Betty,* and *The Office*; they're also leads in blockbusters like *Superbad* and *Knocked Up*; and they're writing best-sellers like *iWoz—Computer Geek to Cult Icon: How I Invented the Personal Computer, Co-Founded Apple, and Had Fun Doing It,* by Steve Wozniak.

Yet not that long ago, *geek* was a four-letter word. The software programmer with the *Star Trek* calendar wasn't a popular hero; he (rarely she) was a person to ignore—or, worse, make fun of. So all this new celebrity is a change for the better—especially in a university town like Ann Arbor, where geeks abound.

But with acceptance come new questions: What does being a geek really *mean?* And if the term can be defined, then who in Ann Arbor is a geek? Or has pop culture taken over so much that geeks, as a subculture, are headed for extinction?

Portrait of a geek

One of the first hits from a Google search of "Ann Arbor" and "geek" is stayathomegeek.com. Owner Duane Collicott is a part-time computer software and information technology support professional, and a stay-at-home dad. Collicott is happy to provide a synopsis of his most recent geek activities. "I am currently president of the Ann Arbor Computer Society, I'm trying to get the sport of curling started in Ann Arbor, this weekend I went to my first meeting of MichLUG (Michigan Lego Users Group), and last week I got my first Lego robotics equipment," he emails.

Collicott provides the latitude and longitude of his home in lieu of an address, and opens his front door to reveal a sprawling mass of Legos on the living room carpet. His sons, ten-year-old William and seven-year-old Benjamin, are ankle deep in the little blocks. Duane has a round face and glasses and frizzy light brown hair. Were his hair a little longer and a little grayer, one could call it Einsteinian.

In some ways, Collicott seems like the traditional stereotypical geek—the one Wikipedia.org describes, in part, as a person who is interested in technology, who has a strong case of neophilia (a love of new things), and who has a devotion to something in a way that places him or her outside the mainstream. So when the forty-four-year-old computer maven pulls out giant Tupperware bins in order to show off his precise replica of the *Stewart J. Cort,* a Great Lakes freighter that he took six months to construct with Legos, it's clear he fits the geek profile more than just a little.

Collicott says that as a kid he read *Aviation Week* and tinkered with early computers—hobbies that didn't exactly make him popular with his peers. He acknowledges that he "had problems socially" when he was younger, but he says his college experiences at EMU, coupled with his first job, helped him find people he could connect with. "I started embracing my geekiness," he says. "I realized we weren't just all computer nerds hiding in a closet."

"These days, you can get 'geeked' about anything," says Duane Collicott. "It doesn't have to be computers or comics."

And now he wears his geek label with pride. "Everybody needs us now," says Collicott—for example, when his neighbors are upgrading their hard drives. And contrary to the image of hygiene-challenged programmers who stare at their shoelaces, he says the many organizations he belongs to are highly social.

Some might argue that Collicott has an easier time self-identifying as a geek because he's not in junior high anymore. But that might be oversimplifying things. Collicott says that geekdom itself has changed in a number of ways. Wikipedia tries to tease out some of the subtleties by distinguishing "geek" from "nerd," which has a more academic connotation, and "dork," which more strongly suggests social impairment.

"Twenty years ago you could use the words *dweeb, nerd,* and *geek* interchangeably, but now the word is different," Collicott explains. "It can mean someone who's a fanatic about something. *Head* used to accomplish the same thing—a Deadhead, a gearhead. These days, you can get 'geeked' about anything. It doesn't have to be computers or comics."

And what geeks a geek may change over time. "I pick certain things to be compulsive about," says Evan Hansen, a twenty-seven-year-old marketing director at the U-M. A few years ago, it was a *Star Wars* role-playing game, for which Hansen imagined a place called Arraknor Station. Its description on his personal web page is, by his own admission, geeky:

> After one of the terrible Sith conflicts, it was decided by a select group of intellectuals, politicians, slicers, and Jedi that rare information needed to be housed in a small, remote installation that could escape the sight of those who might attack freedom. This installment would be kept secret and sacred by the Jedi. . . .

Though Hansen no longer plays *Star Wars* role-playing games, Arraknor Station will still pop up if you Google his name. "I'm cool with it," says Hansen. He says that while he remains "interested in" *Star Wars,* "there are other things I like to explore.

"Right now a group of us gets together and we drink wine, we eat good food. The food isn't trendy, just interesting, and the wine is usually naturally made—sometimes it's sour. It's geeky, but it's just a different subject. Eventually I'll exhaust my interest in it and move on to something else."

Hansen, who has spiky hair and whose office walls are decked out in old-school punk posters, says branching out is a natural part of being geeky, especially as geeks get older and mature. "Computers used to be the new frontier," he says, "but now the focus is on other electronic devices, like building your own TiVo or refurbishing an old Nintendo."

Hansen's friend and colleague Brandon Gheen, for instance, has a collection of restored video game consoles—

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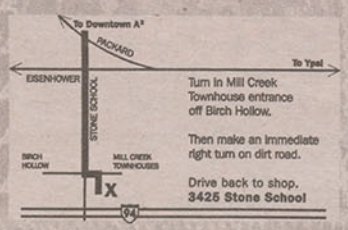

GEEK Chic

continued

and a period TV to go along with each. "You can't have an NES [Nintendo Entertainment System] on a plasma," Gheen explains.

Now that electronics have been embraced by the mainstream public, Gheen adds, some geeks are looking back to even earlier technologies. "Neal Stephenson, a science fiction author, wrote a series of books using candlelight and quill pen," he says. "There's also steampunk, which is Victorian-era futurism, a sort of antiqued science fiction aesthetic. You might modify your computer to make it look like it was built in the eighteen hundreds. It's still technology, but it's embracing the technology of different eras."

Collicott can relate to the backlash. He remembers being interested in computers "before everybody had them at home." Back then, he says, he was probably considered an oddball because of the number and types of computing devices he had. Now Collicott's boys get just one hour of screen time per day—either in front of the TV or in front of the computer—and they're encouraged to play with Legos instead of video games. The "strange" mantle has shifted—Collicott's kids are now in the minority "due to the absence of a computing game in the house, specifically a console device," he says. "They don't mind right now—but things may change when they're closer to being teenagers."

McGeek

Gheen says some of the backlash has happened because mainstream culture is taking geek things and using them to be cool. "It's impossible to be authentic if you get your geekiness from popular culture," Gheen says.

Gheen—who is young and well dressed, and would turn heads sooner for being attractive than for being a geek—says things that made him a geek in high school are now mainstream. "My friends and I wore three-piece suits to school every time a certain line of collector-caliber toys was released," he says. "We weren't doing it to be cool—it was more like a subtle rebellion against the mainstream. These designer toys are big now, and three-piece suits are hipster, but they weren't then."

Gheen no longer collects the toys or wears three-piece suits. Instead, he's more likely to acquire the hard-to-find history of *Transformers* on DVD, which he had to order from overseas because it's not available in the United States. He also had it long before the movie came out, of course—and he's quick to note that several other recent films, like *Sin City*, *30 Days of Night*, and *A History of Violence*, also started out in the alternative universe of cartoons, graphic novels, and comics. They were geeky before they were cool.

While that's a vindication, it also raises a question: If everyone now is a little geeky, does it still mean anything to be a geek?

Bruce Conforth, a U-M lecturer in American culture, says that like the beatnik, hippie, and punk subcultures that have gone before it, the geek subculture is experiencing the pains of being commodified. "The media gets ahold of it and starts to define it, and the original meaning of what that subgroup was is lost," says Conforth. "It's sold as a lifestyle. People see it and say, 'Oh, that's cool. I've been doing some of that, but now I can feel like I fit in.'"

The commodification of a subculture is a kiss of death, says Conforth: "It either puts an end to the subculture or forces it to morph into something else."

But Gheen notes an important difference between geeks and other subcultures. "Geeks aren't antimainstream," he says. "Look at Woodstock: as soon as those kinds of fan-run festivals get sponsored, the whole thing dies. But for geeks, our subculture can endure, because we were already thriving on products—on commoditization. There are always a billion other things that will make you a geek—even if *Transformers* is suddenly the biggest blockbuster in history."

Curtis Sullivan, the thirty-five-year-old owner of the Vault of Midnight comic and game store in Ann Arbor, agrees. "If you've liked Pac-Man since you were eight years old, that won't change just because Target now carries a T-shirt with Pac-Man on it," he says. Sullivan, who says he's happy to be a geek (though a tattooed, fierce-looking one), rails against geeks who want to make comics—or any aspect of the geek subculture—small, obscure, and hard to access: "It's like there's this secret creepy clubhouse of a few geeks who want to lord it over people. They want to think they're cooler than everyone—like Jack Black's character in the movie *High Fidelity*. But all they're doing is hoarding the fun."

And it's all about fun for Sullivan, whose store is a kind of architectural metaphor for geek culture in general. At street level it's bright and colorful, with toys, videos, and books that would be accessible to anyone. The lower level, he says, is more for the "experienced geek": it contains cult books, obscure foreign art books, and back issues of indie comics. But upstairs and downstairs, the store points to the same end. Comic book stores

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Some customers are surprised to learn that SRT Solutions' Dianne Marsh (above) is both a businesswoman and a serious coder. She's surrounded herself with people she calls "high-functioning geeks"—who have both computer skills and people skills.

Curtis Sullivan got his first job at thirteen, sweeping up hair at a salon just so he could buy himself comics. Now he's helping make geekdom mainstream at Vault of Midnight on Main Street. "I hope everyone gives it a try," he says, "because this is imaginative, cool stuff."

used to be hard to find; they had a limited selection; and they appealed to only a small number of people. Now Vault of Midnight has a prime spot on Main Street.

Sullivan—who grew up poor and got his first job at thirteen, sweeping up hair at a salon just so he could buy himself comics—says he wants his store to help make everyone a geek. "I hope everyone gives it a try, because this is imaginative, cool stuff," he says. "If you like fiction or using your imagination, you'll love it."

Sullivan also stresses that his wife, Liz, who helps him run the store and loves both comics and video games, is "attractive and physically fit." He smiles. "I have to get that stereotype out of the way," he says.

"A bell curve of geekiness"

So does Dianne Marsh, the forty-three-year-old cofounder of SRT Solutions, a software company in Ann Arbor. With brown shoulder-length hair and hazel eyes, she doesn't look anything like a stereotypical computer geek—but she certainly sounds like one when she admits, "I get anxious if I don't write code at least a little bit each day."

Marsh, who grew up in Saginaw, says that in school she was always good in science and math as well as social studies and humanities. She got into computer science after taking part in a summer program for girls at Michigan Tech.

But because she's so personable and savvy, many people she deals with assume she's purely "on the business side" of her company. "When you speak to people and tell them what you do, versus what they think you do, they're surprised. They say, 'You don't look like a stereotypical geek,' and I say, 'No one at my company looks like a stereotypical geek.'"

Marsh has surrounded herself with people she calls "high-functioning geeks"—who have both the computer skills and the people skills for a job where coding *and* interfacing with clients is required. And the great news is that there seem to be more and more geeks who can do both.

"There's a bell curve of geekiness," Marsh says. "There are always going to be people on the fringe, who can't leave their parents' basement and who play video games all day. There are also going to be people like Google's Marissa Mayer. She's a very technical, very dynamic, very successful woman who happens to be quite young. The majority fall somewhere in between."

That "in between" number seems to be increasing now that pop culture is embracing what geeks thought was cool all along. In the future, the boundary between geek and nongeek will blur. But it's hard to imagine so distinctive a subculture disappearing—even if geeks themselves can't always agree on exactly what makes them different.

"Geeks love zombies," Gheen says.

"For the record, I'm not into zombies," Hansen replies.

Gheen is incredulous: "Not even *space* zombies?"

The conversation continues. ■

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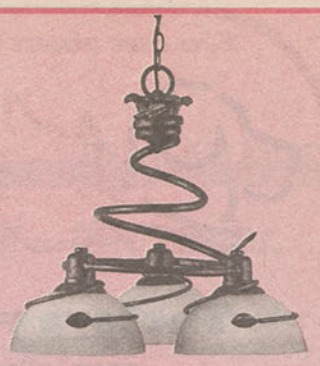

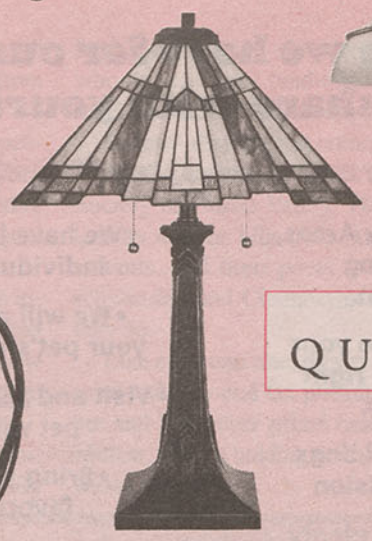

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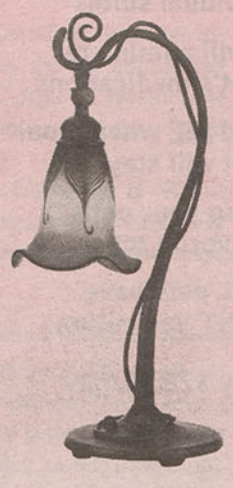

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THE FUND-RAIER

by Vickie Elmer

In hard times, raising money for nonprofits is tougher—and more vital—than ever.

Chris McMullen is putting in extra hours at Food Gatherers—she worries about raising enough money to meet the growing needs of the hungry and homeless. At Washtenaw Community College, Wendy Lawson's fund-raising has been going well—but now the school faces a 20 percent increase in scholarship applications as local families struggle with job losses and look for affordable education.

Ann Neuenschwander is pragmatic—she expects a lot of rejection—but also optimistic, because she knows that the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum has a strong foundation of supporters. And at the Ann Arbor Art Center, Marsha Chamberlin is even more pragmatic: she's had to cut her staff by a quarter in recent years as corporate donations have dried up. "In my discouraging moments," Chamberlin says, "I think we keep one step away from the wolf."

The four women share a common mission: asking people to part with their money for the greater good. But they also compete with one another—and with the 900 other active nonprofits in Washtenaw County—for donors and volunteers.

"The best development directors are fearless," says local consultant Cedric Richner. "They are not intimidated by people with wealth or power." And in Washtenaw County, Richner adds, there aren't enough of them to go around.

One reason for the shortage: the University of Michigan, which with its various arms employs more than 400 fund-raisers and is often looking to hire more. "All of us who do grassroots fund-raising could move over to the U of M and make more money," says WCC's Lawson.

Instead, they stay at community organizations like the Packard Community Clinic, Dawn Farm, or the Humane Society of Huron Valley. They keep their organizations healthy and the bills paid. And according to donors, consultants, and their peers, McMullen, Lawson, Neuenschwander, and Chamberlin are among the best at what they do.

Like everyone else, they're extra busy now. The holiday spirit and year-end tax planning combine to make November and December prime time for fund-raisers. Says McMullen, "We're holding our breath to see what the next few weeks hold."

The worrier at Food Gatherers

As of mid-November, development director McMullen says, contributions to Food Gatherers were down from a year earlier, mainly because of the closing of Pfizer and reduced United Way donations. She's hoping to turn that around with a year-end appeal to major donors and this month's Rockin' for the Hungry. Sponsored by Busch's Supermarkets and radio station WQKL, the December 5–9 event is "the biggest food drive of the year," she says.

Many churches and workplaces also run food drives at year end. Those donations "used to carry us toward springtime. They may not this year; that remains to be seen," McMullen says, a note of concern in her voice.

Most of Food Gatherers' $1.6 million budget comes from gifts by individuals—"a pretty devoted donor base," McMullen says. Yet in the current economic crunch, the need is growing. Food Gatherers supplies 150 senior centers, soup kitchens, and other nonprofits, and some of them have reported a 50 percent increase in food requests.

McMullen takes the group's mission personally—so much so that she sometimes gets "teary eyed" when she goes into workplaces and shows a film on Food Gatherers' efforts to feed the hungry. "My heart is there," she says. "I think about that single mother or the senior citizen, making a decision: 'Shall I eat today or buy my medicine?' "

Sometimes McMullen goes to workplaces that are themselves laying off staff. "I acknowledge the fact that any one of us is one paycheck away from being in a desperate situation of need," she says. "It helps . . . if we help each other."

McMullen gives her father credit for her humanitarian approach. "My dad used to say, 'Life is tough. You should always treat people with as much kindness as possible.' That's always been a ruling mantra for me."

She has been raising money for causes in Ann Arbor for more than twenty years. After earning a master's degree from EMU, she joined the Humane Society to help expand its newsletter and help with special events. She has since worked for the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, the Ann Arbor Art Center, and the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. She joined Food Gatherers three years ago.

"It's not uncommon for development people to move around," McMullen says. But for her it's never just a job. She sometimes finds herself awake at night worrying about whether Food Gatherers will have enough to take care of all the people in need.

"I don't know the last time I worked a forty-hour week," McMullen says. "You certainly take it home with you." She tries to recharge and turn off the worry by watching a movie, gardening, or hiking in the woods. "Nature is very rejuvenating to me," she says.

McMullen says that if she's successful, it's because "I put a lot of effort into building relationships. I truly care and I'm concerned. I'm full of a great amount of respect for philanthropists in our community.

"When the economy is bad, our sense of responsibility to our partners is pretty strong," she adds. "There are so many people in need."

GRIFFIN REAMES

Food Gatherers' Chris McMullen says year-end food drives "used to carry us toward springtime." With donations down and needs growing, she's concerned they may not be enough this year.

GRIFFIN REAMES

Wendy Lawson has donations growing at WCC. But now more students need help—requests for scholarships are up 20 percent this fall.

The optimist at WCC

Wendy Lawson sometimes carries donations around in her purse or leather organizer. Donors hand checks to her at odd moments—even, recently, at a ladies' sleepover—and she tucks them aside, meaning to turn them in. Then she gets busy with meetings, deadlines, and thank-you notes, and two days pass before she remembers.

Despite the tough times, Lawson says that she's seeing "steady growth" in the funds WCC raises for scholarships and grants to college faculty. That alone makes the community college a standout—many nonprofits in the region are cutting programs, staff, or budgets as state funding shrinks and contributions decline.

Lawson says she adores her job as associate vice-president of WCC and head of the Washtenaw Community College Foundation: "I think this is the greatest profession in the world." She likes "working with the greatest people in the community" and leaving "these footprints"—buildings or scholarship funds or other things she helped create with her fund-raising. And she likes "always trying to figure out people—what is important to them, and how do you get at that."

After earning an M.B.A. from Eastern, Lawson joined Planned Parenthood of Mid-Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she says she increased giving by 270 percent. She moved on to run a $2 million endowment campaign for the United Methodist Retirement Communities in Chel-

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THE FUND-RAIER

sea—and then worked with the board and staff to start a separate foundation, which required another $9 million capital campaign.

She took her optimistic and goal-oriented approach to Washtenaw Community College in 2003. Her five-person department raises $2 million a year and is trying to add $1 million to the college's endowment.

Most of the money goes to scholarships—and with demand soaring, "we are looking at more donors, and we will ask people to consider increasing their gifts too," Lawson says, her enthusiasm for the college bubbling over. She believes that only a major drop in the stock market will deter most serious donors. "People who are philanthropic are philanthropic and they will continue to give," she says. "They may cut out dinner at Gratzi so they can write a check to the shelter."

The college's biggest fund-raiser—a Mardi Gras evening in early February—netted about $80,000 this year. Besides the money, the college benefits from the chance to work with the young professionals who volunteer to organize or staff the event. WCC also engages donors as volunteer tutors and mentors, and invites them to meet scholarship recipients at a lunch each spring.

Lawson has a rule that every day before she goes home, she contacts at least one donor—so that at the week's end she's acknowledged at least five. It's sometimes difficult to come up with new and worthwhile ways to express her thanks—she gave brownies to one group, and had culinary arts students make pumpkin spice bars for another—but she says it's essential. "I don't think you can thank people enough for the support they give the college," she says. She especially likes that some parents of students become donors after seeing the school "turn their kids around."

Lawson, a slender woman with a big smile, figures she works fifty or more hours a week. "All my life is work, or none of my life is work," she says. "It's fun work, so it is not a burden."

The networker at the Art Center

Several times a week, CEO Marsha Chamberlin goes to visit a major donor to the Ann Arbor Art Center. When she has lunch with prospective contributors, she makes sure they spend at least ten minutes at the downtown gallery so they can see what they're supporting.

After twenty-seven years running the arts and education organization on Liberty Street, Chamberlin knows a lot about Ann Arbor's donors. Often people who signed up for a class end up as financial contributors, she says. Among businesses, banks will often come through with cash.

In its best years, the Art Center's Wine-Fest fund-raiser has brought in as much as

one-fifth of its operating budget. This year, it brought in $125,000, or only about 11 percent of the center's $1.1 million budget. Still, other nonprofits look enviously at the successful auction, where winning bids have gone as high as $5,000 or $6,000 for fine wine and a dinner prepared by a local chef. It works because it taps into the good-life crowd in the area, who appreciate wine and food, and because Chamberlin has cultivated relationships over the years. For instance, if a couple are selling a home with a huge cellar of wine, a real estate agent may tip Chamberlin to approach them about a donation—wine collectors, she says, "can't drink it as fast as they collect it."

Chamberlin, an elegant woman who wears suits, works in a tiny office behind the galleries. When she visits donors she generally brings along her development director or a board member—but Chamberlin also tries to instill a fund-raising focus in each of the center's fifteen staffers. She tells of the time a gift shop employee called her, suggesting she come down and meet a man who was buying seven pieces of art for his new condominium. She did, and the man became a supporter.

With about 1,800 members, the Art Center awards between 150 and 200 scholarships a year, for its eight-week classes or for a week's summer camp. The number depends on the amount of money raised; this year, Chamberlin says, Fifth Third Bank provided "a nice little shot in the arm" that added at least fifty scholarships. "I had gotten to know one of the bankers over the years," she explains, so when she called on the bank, "it fell together in a great way."

Despite such successes, some donors are writing smaller checks lately, either because they aren't as flush as they used to be or because they're directing some of their money to social service organizations. "People are still giving something, but it's not as much as they used to give, or it's a little later" in the year, Chamberlin says. Corporate dollars are scarcer, too (see box, right).

GRIFFIN REAMES

Marsha Chamberlin says donors are still giving—but not as much as they used to. In the past three years, she's cut the art center's staff by 25 percent.

So the Art Center has spent the last three years trying to cut expenses. Though no one's been laid off, Chamberlin has used attrition to reduce her staff by six people. And "we have as much as we can at our buildings," Chamberlin says. For instance, the Art Center used to take its Art for Kids scholarship programs to community centers, parks, and libraries. Now the children come to the Art Center instead. Even free events like sponsor parties are valuable, because guests may spend $3,000 or more in the gallery gift shop, or sign up as members.

"Right now it's working," says Chamberlin. "You're just touching one person at a time."

Pfizer/Google/Toyota

The closing of Pfizer's Ann Arbor laboratory isn't just costing more than 3,000 jobs—it's also cutting one of the mainstays of charitable giving in this area. Next year local nonprofits will lose about $1 million in direct community grants from the drug maker. Washtenaw United Way, which used to collect about $1.8 million a year from Pfizer and its employees, stands to lose even more: company spokesman Richard Chambers says its United Way match will be $310,000 next year, plus whatever the remaining 300 staffers contribute.

It's only the latest blow to local nonprofits, which have seen many once-generous corporate donors cut back. Ann Arbor Art Center CEO Marsha Chamberlin remembers when Hudson's (and then Marshall Field's) was a major donor to charities in the region. These days the stores are owned by Macy's, which has a much smaller budget. Ford and other automakers also have become more selective about which charities and fundraisers they sponsor.

Cash-starved nonprofits hoped they'd found a new benefactor with the much-hyped arrival of Google's AdWords division last year. So far, though, the online giant's response has been underwhelming. Its foundation, google.org (headed by former Ann Arborite Larry Brilliant), is tackling global issues like climate change and economic development, and its Google Grants program offers free online ads to nonprofits—but on a local level, the company won't even run a United Way campaign. "We, of course, were one of hundreds lined up at the door," says the United Way's Sandra Rupp. After talking to AdWords honcho Grady Burnett, Rupp did get a chance to join representatives from other nonprofits making a pitch for volunteers in Google's downtown cafeteria, "with the pool table and gorgeous view."

Builder Ken Staples, who's raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Salvation Army homeless projects, says he's been playing "telephone tag" with Google ever since he walked unannounced into its office and handed the staff some information. At least Staples got a phone number. Sandy Williams, executive director of the Family Learning Institute, which tutors low-income kids, looked in vain for one. ("We don't have a listing for a Google in Ann Arbor," says a telephone information operator. "Isn't that the online place?")

Master networker Ken Fischer, the president of the University Musical Society, says everyone should give Google more time. "We feel it premature to be doing anything more than becoming 'good friends'" with the company, he says. Jenn Cornell, the company's local spokeswoman, also implies it's too soon to ask Google to bring anything besides jobs to the community. "Google has been in Ann Arbor for ONE year," she emails. "In that first year, it established an office . . . [and] grew from 5 original Googlers to over 150 today. Now that Google is established in a space with room to grow, it plans to look outward to the community, including nonprofits."

GRIFFIN REAMES

So far, Google has brought jobs to town—but not much charitable support.

That's what happened at the Toyota Technical Center. In the 1990s, the Japanese carmaker's local arm was at least as elusive as Google is now, right down to the unlisted phone number. But the Ann Arbor Township facility has gradually become more engaged with the local community, and in recent years, says external affairs staffer Cindy Mahalak, it has become "significantly" more generous with cash donations. It currently gives out $450,000 a year, with many of its grants focused on education, the environment, and safety.

—Vickie Elmer & Eve Silberman

The diligent pragmatist at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

Hands-On Museum development director Ann Neuenschwander grew up thinking she'd be a teacher. But she fell into fund-raising when her children were young and she was looking for a part-time job. She started working for a hospital in Saginaw and then joined Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, where she worked for eleven years.

She joined the museum five years ago, and appreciates being in a place that fills with children most days. She also appreciates Ann Arbor—"This is such a generous community," she says.

The kids' science museum is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary this year; some of the museum's founders now are bringing their grandchildren instead of their children to see the big bubble machine or admire the old-fashioned firehouse. By now, it can draw on more than 100 current and past board members for support. So when the museum wanted to raise $250,000 from twenty-five donors this year, Neuenschwander turned to her mainstays first and raised $330,000 in six months—from twenty-six donors. The money is being used to create a space on the second floor for performance and special events.

The museum puts on quite a few special events. They're the most time consuming and least profitable way to make money, Neuenschwander says, but they bring in people who then may become members or donors. For each event or campaign, she and executive director Mel Drumm set a financial target. For the museum's October anniversary party, a fancy dinner with dancing, their goal was $70,000. The event ended up bringing in $80,000, netting $43,000 for the museum.

GRIFFIN REAMES

Ann Neuenschwander says the Hands-On Museum's anniversary gala in October netted $43,000.

"You work toward goals. You rally the troops," says Neuenschwander.

Thanks largely to its anniversary events, the Hands-On Museum is running ahead of last year's fund-raising totals. But Neuenschwander isn't slacking off. Like many of her peers, she spends a good bit of her time reading newspapers, trade journals, and websites, looking for prospective donors to contact.

She expects Pfizer's closing to have "trickle-down effects" on some of the museum's 3,800 member families. Some have already moved away, and others may not renew their memberships next year. But "you just work harder and keep going," she says.

Neuenschwander is pragmatic about her job's ups and downs. "You can't take it personal if people say no," she says. "All we can do is present the opportunity. It's the donor's choice" to give or not. "You just have to believe in what you're asking for.

"My love is the little twenty-five-dollar first-time donor. It's that persuasion of the first-time gift that's more exciting than a million-dollar gift," Neuenschwander says. "It's a small gift—from the heart." ■

SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses–** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

*** On days having even-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the street having odd-numbered street addresses–** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

BREWED ON FOURTH STREET

by Grace Shackman

At the Michigan Union Brewing Company and the Ann Arbor Brewing Company, Ann Arborites could pick up beer by the pail.

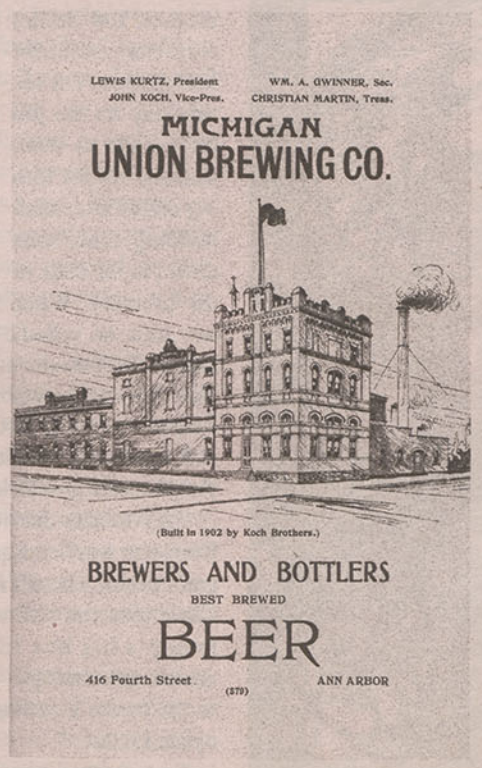
The Ann Arbor Brewing Company at 416 Fourth Street was the only brewery in the city to survive Prohibition. Yet its product was not greatly valued in its hometown. "It was considered good only for putting out fires," claimed the late Carl Horning in a 1995 interview.

Horning was exaggerating: for eighty-eight years, the local brew found customers throughout Ann Arbor and beyond. And townsfolk weren't averse to stopping by for a glass or two of beer, on the house, any time of night or day. According to Will Frey, who worked at the brewery off and on from 1937 to 1943, leaky barrels that couldn't be sold were put in a backroom. Those who knew the barrels were there—namely, just about everyone in town—could come in through an always-unlocked door off the loading dock and get a drink. They used glasses hanging nearby, which they rinsed out when they were finished.

"It was a good stop for the postman. It took him longer to deliver mail there than the rest of the block," recalls Frey. The staff got free beer, too. Robert Kauffman remembers the job he got there at age seventeen cleaning out an old metal tank on top of the brewery: "At lunch break we went down to the main floor of the brewery and helped ourselves to a few pints of Ann Arbor Cream Top directly out of the barrel." People who played baseball in that era recall coming by after games to cool down with a glass of beer.

The brewery was founded in 1861 by Peter Brehm, who had recently moved to Ann Arbor from Germany. Brehm named his business the Western Brewery, after its location on the west side of town in the heart of the German neighborhood. In 1864, after his first building burned down, Brehm built a larger, two-story brewery, with a basement.

When Brehm opened his brewery, there were three others in town. Two—Hooper's (1858–1866), at State and Fuller, and the Bavarian (1860–1872), on Fuller between Elizabeth and State—were probably home operations. The City Brewery (1860–1886), at 210 South First Street, was closer to Brehm's operation in both size and location. It's now the Cavern Club—named after the basement vaults where the beer was aged.



Two other breweries started shortly after Brehm's, both also named for their locations: the Central (1865–1875), at 724 North Fifth Avenue, now the Brewery Apartments; and the Northern (1872–1909), at 1037 Jones Drive, now an office building. Competition from the two ambitious newcomers surely didn't help Brehm's business, and the Panic of 1873 drove him over the edge: he lost control of the brewery and killed himself in despair.

Yet his successors managed to keep the business going for another seventy-five years. In 1880 Christian Martin and Matthias Fischer bought the Western Brewery. Martin, the brewmaster, walked over from his house across the street at 431 Fourth at 4 or 5 a.m. to start the fire in the boilers. Fischer, who ran the bottling operation, also lived in the neighborhood, on West Jefferson.

The new owners made a success of the operation from the start. A year later, the 1881 Chapman *History of Washtenaw County, Michigan,* reported, "The beer produced by this brewery finds a ready sale in all parts of the county." According to Chapman, "some 1,500 barrels of malt, 1,700 lbs. of hops, 225 cords of wood and 800 tons of ice are used in the manufacture and storage of the 3,000 barrels of beer turned out annually." The Western Brewery's nearest competitor, the Northern Brewery, turned out just 2,400 barrels.

By 1903 the brewery was doing so well that the partners hired their German neighbors the Koch brothers to build a larger brick building south of their original one. In those days they used gravity to move the beer from place to place as it brewed, so the north end of the new building had five levels—three above ground and two below. A lower section, on the south, was used for packaging—in kegs, and later in bottles.

When the new building opened, the business was renamed the Michigan Union Brewing Company in honor of the local union of bartenders and brewery workers, which represented the employees. Shortly afterthat, in 1906, the Northern Brewery went out of business, leaving Michigan Union Brewing as the only brewery in town.

It delivered beer by horse and wagon to saloons and businesses all over Ann Arbor and as far away as Dexter and Saline, which also had large German populations. In 1915 the company acquired an Ann Arbor–made Star Truck and extended its delivery routes to Milan and Whitmore Lake.

The brewery also did home deliveries—or people could pick up beer at the brewery in their own containers. The late Harry Koch used to tell how as a young boy he was sent to the brewery by his dad, who was one of the Koch brothers, to fill a pail with beer for the construction crew's lunch.

Michigan adopted Prohibition in 1918, a year ahead of the country as a whole. The brewery was renamed the Michigan Union Beverage Company and for a short time made near beer, but that didn't satisfy anyone. "The Germans wouldn't have anything to do with glorified hop water," says Will Frey. Many Germans made their own wine (you can still see their grape arbors around the Old West Side) or obtained bootleg products from Canada.

In 1920 Connor Ice Cream rented the building, since much of the equipment could be used for making ice cream (Detroit brewer Stroh's did the same thing). Florence Seitz Clark, who grew up across the street at 427 Fourth, reminisced in 1986, "The secretary at Connors ate her suppers with us. On weekends Connors always had specials. If there was some left over, which there often was, she would bring us a quart for our supper. This was a real treat since otherwise we never had any.

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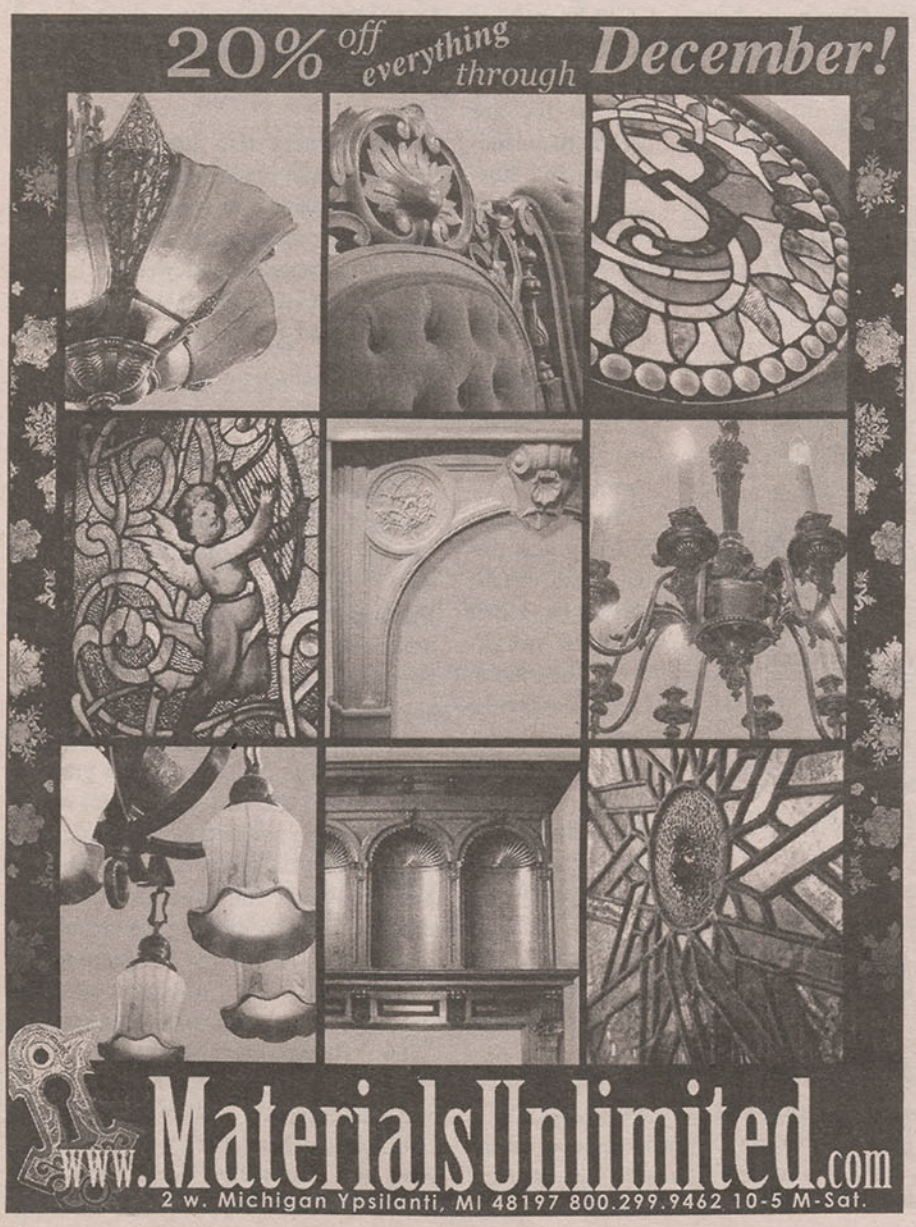

BREWED ON FOURTH STREET

continued...

When she would come with a brown bag we knew what it was and got all excited."

When Prohibition ended in 1933, three local contractors, Chris Mack, Stanley Thomas, and Ed Bliska, decided to revive the brewery. They persuaded Jake Ludwig, a trained brewmaster who had moved to Pennsylvania to farm during Prohibition, to return to beer making. Ludwig was later replaced by Al Bek, who had gone to Germany to learn the trade.

The new business was not a union brewery, so it was named the Ann Arbor Brewing Company. Frey recalls that someone tried to start a union but that no one was interested. "No one grumbled about the pay. It was good money in the Depression," he explains.

The work was seasonal—heavier in summer, when the demand for beer was highest—so a lot of the crew was temporary. It attracted young people like Frey who didn't mind sporadic hours, as well as farmers who needed a little extra work to help pay their taxes. Peter Marion recalls how his father, Alvin, came in three days a week from his farm near Saline to work the bottling line.

Frey began working at the brewery in 1937, when he was just out of high school; he was hired because his half brother, Ted Ziefle, was the assistant bookkeeper. On his first day on the job he was put to work loading bottles into big crates in a small building, since torn down, in the back of the brewery. When brewmaster Al Bek saw him, he yelled, "What are you doing here?" It turned out Bek had two boys near Frey's age whom he had wanted to have the job. The next day Alvin and Dick Bek were both working there too; they and Frey became good friends.

Frey recalls that the brewery got hops from out west and grain from a Chicago grain dealer. He still remembers that every Christmas the Chicago dealer gave his family a big box filled with treats like cheese and sausage. They looked forward to the dealer's package so much that they opened it last.

Frey worked mainly in the bottling operation. Making the beer was very specialized work and left to the brewmaster. Frey does remember that the mash was made in a big copper kettle, which could be seen out the back window of the main office. It was pumped up to the top floor and then sent down to the basement by gravity.

The bottling operation was semimechanized. The machines had to be constantly monitored, and at several points the bottles had to be transferred by hand. With all the moving, Frey admits, "there was a fair amount of broken glass in the brewery, but we also got pretty good at it. You learned fast, or you'd get all bloody."

Returned bottles were loaded onto a conveyor belt, where "they marched like little soldiers," in Frey's words, through the washing machine. It was Alvin Marion's job to watch the bottles as they came out to make sure that they weren't chipped and that the washer hadn't missed any foreign objects, such as cigar butts, chewing gum, or pebbles.

The bottles were filled and capped by machine, but again they had to be watched carefully—if the pressure were wrong, the bottles wouldn't fill completely. "A bunch of us would stand around and drink half bottles," Frey says, "since it was very difficult to put it through again."

Ann Arbor Brewing sold several brands: Cream Top, Old-Tyme, and Town Club. But according to Frey, they were actually all the same beer. He remembers they would attach labels in batches: "We'd start with, say, six hundred of Old Tyme, then three hundred of Town Club." Hazen Schumacher, who worked at the Pretzel Bell restaurant in the late 1940s, recalls that the brewery would also dye beer in novelty colors for holidays—red on Valentine's Day and green on St. Patrick's Day. But the only beer that was actually brewed differently was the bock produced each spring.

"There was a fair amount of broken glass in the brewery, but we also got pretty good at [handling bottles]," Will Frey recalls. "You learned fast, or you'd get all bloody."

Brewery workers used a machine to attach the labels and to put a paper tax stamp on each bottle. Sometimes the machine got gummed up, which was not a big problem with labels but upsetting when it happened with the tax stamps: they were prepaid, so it was like throwing money away.

The final step was transferring the beer by hand into cases. These were made at the brewery, riveted together by the thousands. Frey recalls that they were so sturdy that they were used over and over, and were good for use on camping trips or as luggage for kids.

By this time, the beer was delivered farther afield. Frey says that besides nearby towns with German populations like Manchester, Stockbridge, and Milan, an Amish population in Ohio got shipments, and so did a pocket of German farmers in Texas.

In 1939 the brewery was purchased by a group of investors from Chicago. They sent Charles Ackerman, who Frey believes was the nephew of one of the investors, to oversee the operation. Ackerman, who is listed in the city directory as president, treasurer, and general manager, saw the brewery through its final decade; it closed in 1949, and the equipment was sold.

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Mathematical Reviews **associate editor Norman Richert bought most of his brewery memorabilia (above and below) on eBay—but the wooden keg was a gift from Harry Cross, whose father salvaged it from the building.**

By then local breweries were either expanding or dying out as the beer industry consolidated—a trend that's continued ever since, most recently with a joint venture uniting Miller, Molson, and Coors. The brewery was sold to Argus Camera, which already owned two neighboring buildings.

The U-M bought the Argus buildings when the camera company left town in the 1960s. Beginning in 1965, the former Ann Arbor Brewing building was shared by *Mathematical Reviews*, a bibliographic journal that had just moved to Ann Arbor from Providence, Rhode Island, and the U-M's audiovisual education center. By then all traces of its former use were obliterated. "I was unaware that it had been a brewery until one of the movers told us that he had drunk a beer where our film library was going," recalls retired center employee George Williams.

Mathematical Reviews moved out in 1971, only to return in 1985, when it bought the building from the U-M. To make room for more parking, the journal removed the old shed in back where Frey worked the first day he arrived. The staff do, however, fully appreciate that they are in an old brewery.

"When I first came to *MR* and found out the building used to be a brewery, I interpreted it as a sign from God," recalls associate editor Norman Richert. A beer buff whose first academic job was in Milwaukee, Richert was delighted to learn from local historian Wystan Stevens that memorabilia from Michigan Union Brewing and Ann Arbor Brewing regularly come up for sale on eBay. He's since amassed a collection that includes labels, bottles, a box, and a wooden beer keg.

Richert admits it was "a little disappointing" to hear, through Frey, that Ann Arbor Brewing's different brands were all the same beer. But he also points out that our standards in food and drink have become much more refined in recent years. "People thought of it more like a commodity then," he says. "You go get beer, you go get milk. You don't necessarily think what it tastes like."

He guesses the different labels may have been a way to appeal to different buyers—an early form of the steady blurring of consumption and marketing that has led to phenomena like Old Milwaukee's Swedish Bikini Team. In contrast, he says, one of his Michigan Union Brewing bottles had a much simpler sales pitch: embossed in the glass is the motto "Pure and without drugs or poison."

That and the other items in Richert's collection may eventually be available for public viewing: He hopes eventually to start a small museum commemorating the building's beer-loving past. ■

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Our 2007 Holiday Shopping Guide

Due Diligence

by Tony McReynolds

When my son was six and still into dinosaurs, he begged us to buy him a radio-controlled Roboreptile. We'd already planned to make it the Big Present at the Foot of the Bed that year, so we told him to ask Santa.

The next weekend we went to Kerrytown, where my son climbed onto Santa's lap and put in his request. Santa smiled vaguely and more or less said that he'd see what he could do, but it was clear from his jolly but bemused expression that he had no idea what a Roboreptile was. It was equally clear that my son knew it. So, trying to be helpful, he leaned in close and said to Santa, "You can get them at Lowe's."

As it turned out, you couldn't get them at Lowe's, so I can only hope that Santa didn't waste his time looking. I mention this because I didn't want to make my son's mistake and send you rushing off on a wild goose chase with this year's Holiday Shopping Guide. Rest assured that, unlike my son, I did my due diligence regarding the following list of holiday gift suggestions—every one of which can be found without losing your car in Lowe's parking lot.

It's no Roboreptile, but the cast-iron bull's head towel ring I spotted at Peartree on North Main is pretty nifty. The towel ring, as you might guess, goes through the bull's nose, but the horns are better than a foot wide, so we're talking two extra towel hooks. It's $48. The $34 elk's head coat hooks are impressive, too.

Four Directions on South Main has cool-looking roosters poised in mid-crow. They're even cooler when you look more closely and realize they're made entirely of red chili peppers. They're $30 for the small version, $129 for the large. Or opt for the gentle croaking of a carved wooden frog and make it ribbit by running the edge of a small wooden dowel down its ridged back. These start at $9, dowel included.

For ecoconscious jewelry, check out Zulugrass at Falling Water. Creators Philip and Katy Leakey live in Kenya and developed the line to help their Masai neighbors earn a sustainable income. Working from Katy's designs, Masai women make stunning jewelry that combines tubular beads of dyed African grass with hand-blown Czech glass. Earrings start at $20 a piece. You can also buy single twenty-inch grass bead strands for $8 apiece and weave them into your own designs.

Occasionally-Gift Baskets & Balloons has oven mitts shaped like Michigan's Lower Peninsula! Okay, all oven mitts are shaped like Michigan's Lower Peninsula. But *these* oven mitts have actual maps of Michigan on them. At $13, they come in red, blue, green, and white. Now you can show people where you live *and* pull a hot pan out of the oven at the same time. If you're shopping for tailgaters, throw in a Michigan barbecue set for $39, featuring tongs, a fork, a brush, and a spatula, all with maize and blue handles.

I know people who can't go on a three-hour nature hike without pulling out their iPod. They need a $20 protective iPod case made of ballistic nylon from Moosejaw on Main Street. The case is plush lined to protect your 'Pod while you climb even the roughest mountain, and it attaches to a shoulder strap or belt. If you want to play it safe and do your climbing at home, Moosejaw has everything budding rock-climbers need to build their own rock-climbing walls. A starter set of five multicolored wall-mounted holds goes for $24.

For the environmentally conscious chocoholic, Schakolad on East Washington has gift-wrapped boxes of six assorted truffles for $25. After you've eaten the truffles, eliminate the packaging by eating that, too—the box (and bow) are also made of chocolate. Other holiday-themed treats include a foot-tall chocolate Christmas tree with red sugar flowers and a white sugar star on top for $35, and a chocolate menorah, sans candles, for $18.

(Above) Playmobil's Roman Arena (at Tree Town Toys) meets a Robotic Attack Creature (from Fun Station). (Left) The bear at Red Shoes has her own personal fairy door.

Whether you think fairy doors are cute or whether you quietly wonder what all the fuss is about, most kids are enchanted by them. Get them their very own doors for $35 each at Red Shoes on South Ashley. Made to mount on a wall, the doors actually open and come in red, blue, pink, and green. They also come with a little fairy tricycle and a vial of fairy dust.

A few years back I was sitting in a meeting, scribbling notes in my day planner, when a twenty-three-year-old woman punching the same info into her PDA announced airily that "paper is dead." Two days later, her PDA was dead—and all her notes along with it. So enjoy your PDA, but put your trust in hard copy. Start by picking up a beautiful leather-bound day planner at Suwanee Springs Leather on Main, $25 and up.

Luckily I don't have to sit in too many meetings, but if I did, I'd want to be sitting in a Polymorphic Foof chair from Dream On Futon on Ashley. Foof chairs look like beanbag chairs, but they're a lot more

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comfortable, because they're filled with pleasantly squishy polyurethane foam pieces. The floor model was $265 and it must have been three feet across, but you can special-order anything from a kid-size chair to a couch. The price varies with the size and the fabric you choose.

If you know people who talk wistfully about making their own jewelry, the Bead Gallery on East Liberty has a kit that includes everything they need to make glass beads from scratch, including glass rods, fireproof work surface, torch head, tabletop torch holder, and instruction book. It's $140. And to make sure they get the hang of it, you can buy them a three-hour class in glass bead making for $80.

Know any athletes with smelly feet? Drop a hint by dropping a pack of two Penguin Fresh Twist shoe deodorizers from Running Fit in their Christmas stockings ($6). You twist them to release the deodorizer and plop one in each shoe. They also work on gym bags and smelly Christmas stockings.

The Swiss army hasn't fought a war since 1815, so why do Swiss soldiers need so many knives? Victorinox, manufacturer of Swiss Army Knives, has over 200 different models. The Classic comes with seven tools; Victorinox claims it's the world's most popular knife. It's $15 at Sam's Store. If seven tools aren't enough, the $75 Swiss Champ has thirty-three. There's even a $12 model for kids called My First Victorinox with a bottle opener, toothpick, tweezers, and a blunt safety blade more suited to spreading peanut butter than to whittling tent stakes.

Sing-alongs around the campfire accompanied by a camp counselor on acoustic guitar are the stuff of childhood memories. Camp counselors blasting out Jimi Hendrix covers on electric guitar—not so much. But all that could change, thanks to the Camp & Travel amp. A portable electric guitar amp housed in a rugged yellow protective case, it runs on a rechargeable eight-hour battery. It's $237 at Herb David. Or go for the simpler sound of a bygone era with a cigar-box ukulele for $165. The neck, strings, and tuning pegs are brand new, but the body really is made from an antique cigar box. The floor model I saw advertised "Old Virginia Cheroots: 5 for 10 cents" and was handmade in Herb's basement. Throw in a $3 key chain pick holder as a stocking stuffer.

When the music is good, the company is great, and the wine is flowing freely, sometimes it's hard to stick to a one-glass limit. That's no problem if you have the Make a Big Drink wine glass. It's $12 at Urban Outfitters on State, and it holds an entire bottle of wine. Designated driver not included.

People who always lose track of their reading glasses will appreciate a stylish eyeglass chain from See on State. For $25, it's not just a way to keep your glasses handy—it doubles as a fashion accessory: the slinky, woven metal chain in muted, metallic green almost looks like an elegant, understated necklace. And a glasses care kit with screwdriver, spray, and lint-free cloth in a little leather case for $10 makes a practical stocking stuffer.

Even the person who has almost everything might need a chili pepper rooster (Four Directions) or a cigar-box ukulele (Herb David).

Whether you can't wait for George W. Bush to leave office or you're dreading the day the Bush administration ends, you can keep track of the time he has left with the Bush Countdown key chain, $12 at Shaman Drum Bookshop. Smaller than a credit card and just 1.5 ounces, it features a picture of a baffled-looking Bush (a Democrat might say I was being redundant) and a digital clock that counts down the seconds until the moment Bush officially ends his term.

Terramundi money pots, also known as Etruscan money amphoras, have been handmade in Italy for 2,000 years. You write down a wish on a piece of paper and then slip it, along with a coin, into the slot at the top of the pot. The coin is like a down payment on the wish; in theory, you keep adding money over time. When the pot is full, smash it open and use the money to make your wish come true. The Caravan Shop in Nichols Arcade has Terramundi money pots in all kinds of cheerful colors, wish card included. It's a great way to give people an incentive to save up for something that you have no intention of buying them—like, say, a Lamborghini.

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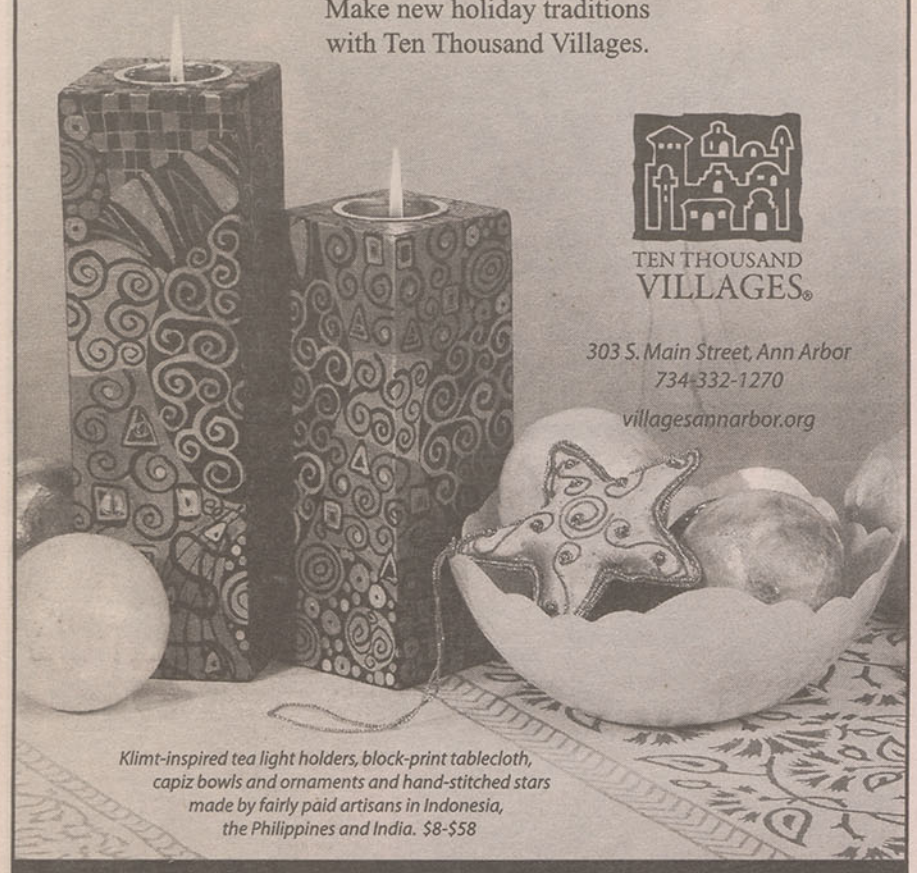

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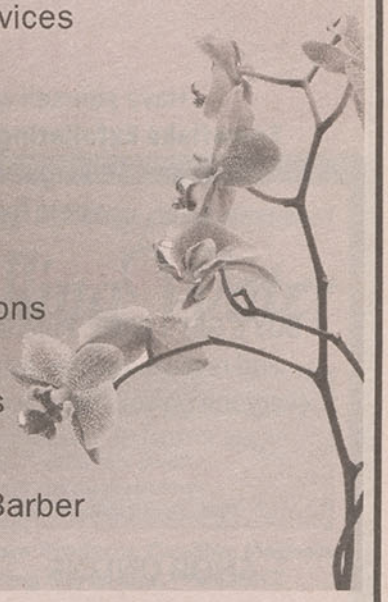

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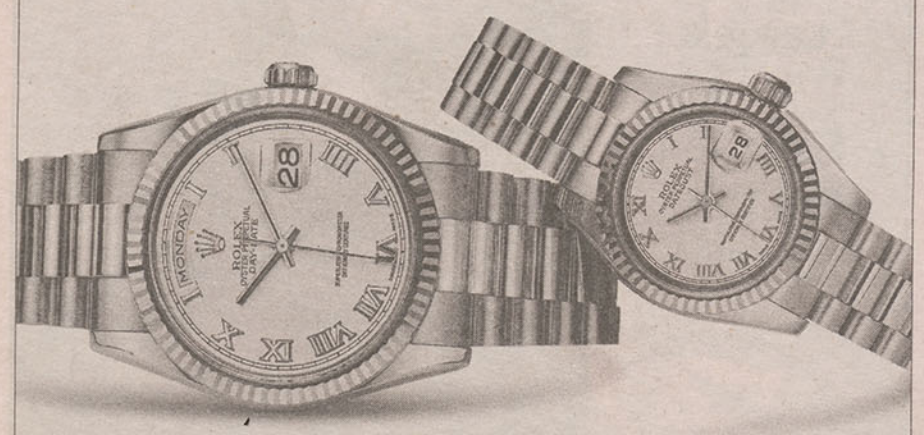

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The Hamax snoXross sled looks like a stripped-down, three-wheeled ATV on skis. Fast and easy to steer, it's intended mostly for kids, but adults will be tempted to give it a go. It's $120 at Play It Again Sports in Westgate shopping center. Play It Again also carries an inflatable Slalom Alpine Racer with steering and braking systems for $40. Your basic inflatable sled starts at $12.

(Above) Dem dream gift, at Shaman Drum. (Right) Kitten demonstrating the kitten mitten at University Aquarium. (Below) Fishing vest from Colton Bay Outfitters.

Desk calendars are a great way to keep track of your schedule and learn something at the same time. Nicola's Books in Westgate has a large and eclectic selection starting at $12. You can learn a new word every day with the *American Heritage Dictionary* desk calendar, or you can learn an old word every day with the Forgotten English desk calendar (like *snollygoster,* a word for an unprincipled person or politician, and *puckfyst,* which means "thirsty"). My favorite is the Origami Page-a-Day desk calendar at $15. Instead of throwing away yesterday's page when you tear it off, you fold it into an origami sculpture by following instructions on today's page.

Cat owners who love *Edward Scissorhands* will love wearing Kitten Mittens. They're gloves with flexible, twelve-inch fingers, but they're tipped with bells and catnip pom-poms rather than blades. It feels delightfully creepy to slip them on and wave your fingers, Johnny Depp like, in the air (and the cats enjoy it, too). They're $9 at University Aquarium in Westgate. For people with hamsters, gerbils, mice, or rats, get the Snack Shak. It looks like a South Sea beach hut and it's not only habitable but edible too. Yes, pets can now literally eat themselves out of house and home. It's $11.39.

Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fly-fish, and he'll tell you the story about the one that got away for a lifetime. Colton Bay Outfitters on Jackson Road has how-to fly-fish DVDs like *The Orvis Progressive Fly Casting Method* starting at $24. If you know someone who just wants to look like a fly fisherman—the sport's gotten pretty trendy—get your friend a Simms fishing vest for $180. Surprisingly stylish, and loaded with pockets, it comes in either a deep burnt orange or a color the Simms people call taupo (they can dress it up all they want, but it's still taupe to me).

Portable DVD players are the best thing to happen to long-distance family car trips since some harried parent, with a genius born of desperation, first uttered the magic words "I spy with my little eye." Protecting the players and discs is another story. A Monster DVD to Go carrying case from Big George's does the job. The padded, ballistic nylon case protects DVD players; rugged suspension straps secure the case to the front seats so you can open up the player for backseat viewing; and there are plenty of pockets and pouches for the power supply, cables, DVDs, and more. It's $60.

Single-malt scotch makes a classic Christmas gift, and A&L Wine Castle on West Stadium has an incredible selection. The most expensive? A fifth of Macallan thirty-year-old for $700. If you know a Macallan drinker but $700 is more than you were planning to spend, slip a minibar-size bottle of Macallan twelve-year-old in your friend's stocking. It's a somewhat more affordable $5.

The Four-Legged Socialite kiosk near Banana Republic in Briarwood sells "products for sophisticated pets and the people who own them," like the $22 Laser

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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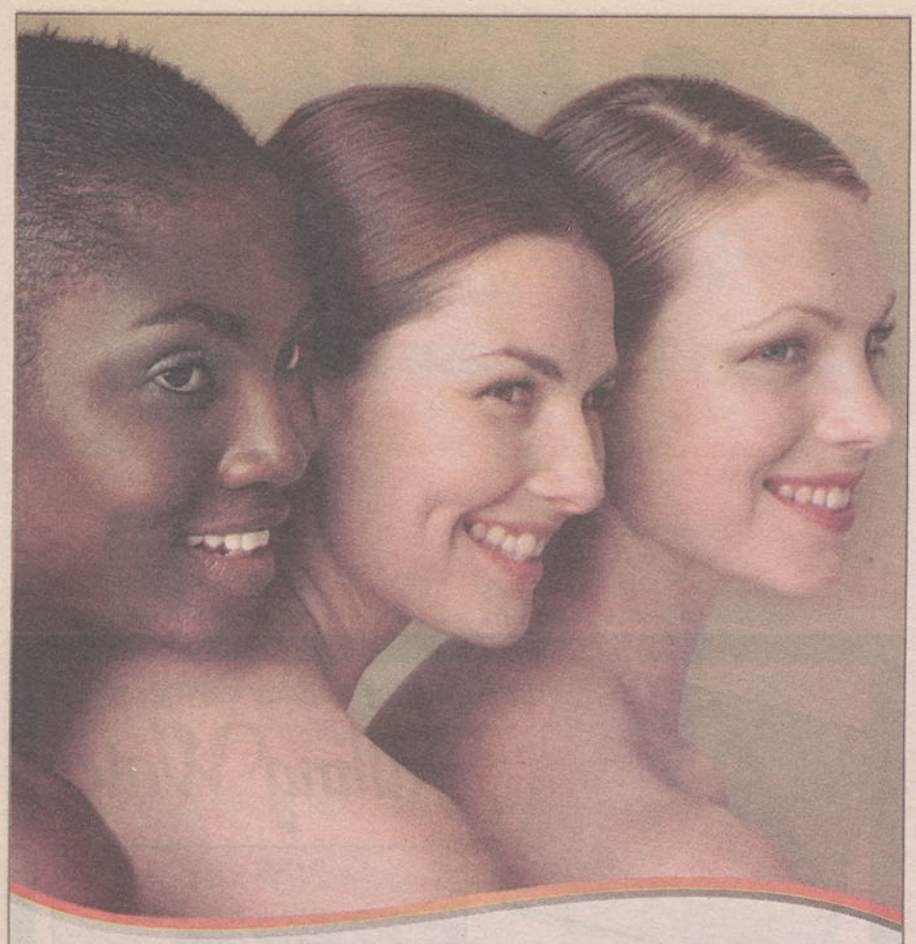

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Beam Dog Exerciser. Make the red dot dance around the room and watch your dog go nuts trying to catch it. And while the package says it's great for all pets, I imagine there's only so much fun to be had trying to get a turtle to chase it.

I'm going to get my son a Radio Controlled Quad Propeller UFO with flashing LED lights for Christmas so I can play with it. Four electric motors, two pairs of contrarotating propellers, and an electronic gyroscope enable it to rise, hover, bank, and swoop "just like a real UFO" (assuming UFOs are real). It's $140 at the Fun Station kiosk in Briarwood's Von Maur wing. Equally cool is the remote-controlled, six-legged N.S.E.C.T. Robotic Attack Creature, which scuttles across the floor in a viscerally unnerving way. Switch to attack mode, and the wings folded across its back open up to reveal a rocket launcher that's capable of rapid-firing six Nerf darts up to twenty-five feet. Seriously creepy, and loads of fun, it's $99.

Papyrus boasts that its Italian leather journals can make even a grocery list look swank. Rich leather covers do give them a satisfying heft. Couple that with heavy handmade bond paper, and they just beg to be written in. They start at $65. For a neat stocking stuffer, pick up a $7 pen-and-pencil set. Both pen and pencil are made of dark, elegant wood and come nestled in thick foam in a sleek steel box.

Rock fans tired of playing video games with the same old game controllers might enjoy the change of pace provided by Guitar Hero III. The game controller is shaped like a half-size guitar; players take on guitar heroes like Slash from Guns N' Roses in one-on-one guitar shoot-outs. Gamers don't have to know how to play guitar (the game controller has control buttons, not strings), but they will get a chance to show off their air guitar skills. It's $90 at the Electronic Boutique near JCPenney.

If you don't want to spend that much on the game, get the T-shirt. Hot Topic has Guitar Hero III T-shirts for $15 and a CD of songs from the video game for $10; the disc features music from the likes of Slash, Sonic Youth, and Queens of the Stone Age.

People who like to nod off listening to music on their iPods will appreciate the iPod pillow. The soft, plush, sixteen-inch pillow looks like an iPod; it has a built-in speaker and FM radio and working buttons. You can even plug in your real iPod and drift off to sleep to your favorite sounds. It's $30 at F.Y.E.

My family's favorite holiday ornament is the big leather horse bridle strap studded with brass sleigh bells that we hang on the front door every year. The bells jingle every time we open the door, and the sound always helps put us in the holiday spirit. Dixboro General Store on Plymouth Road has a wide selection, ranging from a small strap with one bell and a brass hoop you can hang on a doorknob for $17 to a three-inch-wide strap with thirteen bells and a brass buckle for $200.

If you want anything, just whistle: Russian nesting dolls from Princess Designs gaze serenely over a sleek Alessi teapot from V2V.

Playmobil's Roman Arena has pretty much everything kids need to create their own G-rated version of *Gladiator,* including a replica of the Roman Coliseum three feet across, a double-harnessed horse-drawn chariot, four gladiators, a lion, a tiger, and spectator stands with a secret trap door leading to the dungeon. Russell Crowe action figure not included, because Playmobil doesn't make one. The Roman Arena is $90 at Tree Town Toys in Traver Village.

Students on a student budget looking for stocking stuffers should head on over to Sarah's Campus Dollar Store on South University. Everything's a buck, and pretty much anything Sarah carries will do in a pinch. And Ping Pong must be pretty popular on campus, because she's got a sign in the window advertising Ping Pong balls, two for a buck. By the way, what's beer pong?

A game called 52 Weeks of Romance features a deck of fifty-two cards promising romantic thrills, unexpected surprises, and playful games of seduction (one sug-

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

gestion: draw a large heart with your initials inside with soap on the bathroom mirror for your love to discover). Pull a card from the silk pouch each week and see what develops. It's $10 at the Safe Sex Store. The Kama Sutra game comes with fifty-six "activity" cards, a die, and instructions. It's $30, and just the thing for the limber couple that likes to play board games.

Smoka Hooka & More on South U has beautiful multicolored glass hookahs starting at $20. One-hose models are perfect for solitary, introspective types. More gregarious people will prefer the four-hose version. Flavored tobaccos like banana, coconut, and strawberry start at $4 a box. That's enough for two hour-long hookah sessions—less if you chain-hookah.

Trader Joe's wine department is famous for Three Buck Chuck, but who knew the place sold cheap beer, too? Surprise a beer connoisseur with a six-pack of Frugal Joe's, for $4.39 plus deposit. And since we've covered wine and beer, why not hard liquor? Try stuffing a stocking with a $3 jar of Trader Joe's organic vodka sauce—a blend of tomatoes, cheese, garlic, basil, oregano, and, according to the label, "a kick of vodka."

For the do-it-yourselfer who truly does it himself because he can't talk any friends into spending their Saturdays helping him knock out that load-bearing wall, a twenty-five-foot Autotape from Ace Barnes Hardware on Washtenaw is a must. The tape extends and retracts at the touch of a button for easy, one-handed operation, eliminating the need for an unwilling friend (or an even more unwilling spouse) to hold the other end. It's $15. If you know people who have trouble holding their cheese (that's not a metaphor), a $4 cheese pin could be the answer. About as big around as a notary stamp, it has a decorative top and four plastic prongs on the bottom. Use the cheese pin to hold down the cheese with one hand, and cut the cheese with the other (that can be a metaphor, but it isn't one here).

I had five hours of work to do on a recent car trip to Toronto, but my laptop battery ran out after two. A Go Socket power inverter from Batteries Plus on Packard near Platt would have come in handy. It plugs into the cigarette lighter, and you plug the laptop into it. Inverters start at $30; some models have more than one socket, so you can plug in your laptop and the kids' DVD player at the same time. And if you want to give the gift of green energy, consider a solar charger. It's a little bigger than a flip phone; its built-in solar panel uses solar energy to recharge mobile phones, MP3 players, PDAs, and other handheld devices. It's $40.

As long as you're buying for people on the go, Bed Bath & Beyond at Arborland has a tiny LCD travel alarm clock from Nextar for $40. It includes a flip-up digital picture frame: the 1.5-inch LCD screen displays up to sixty pictures, eliminating your globe-trotting friends' need to pack bulky, framed photos of their loved ones every time they travel on business. In fact,

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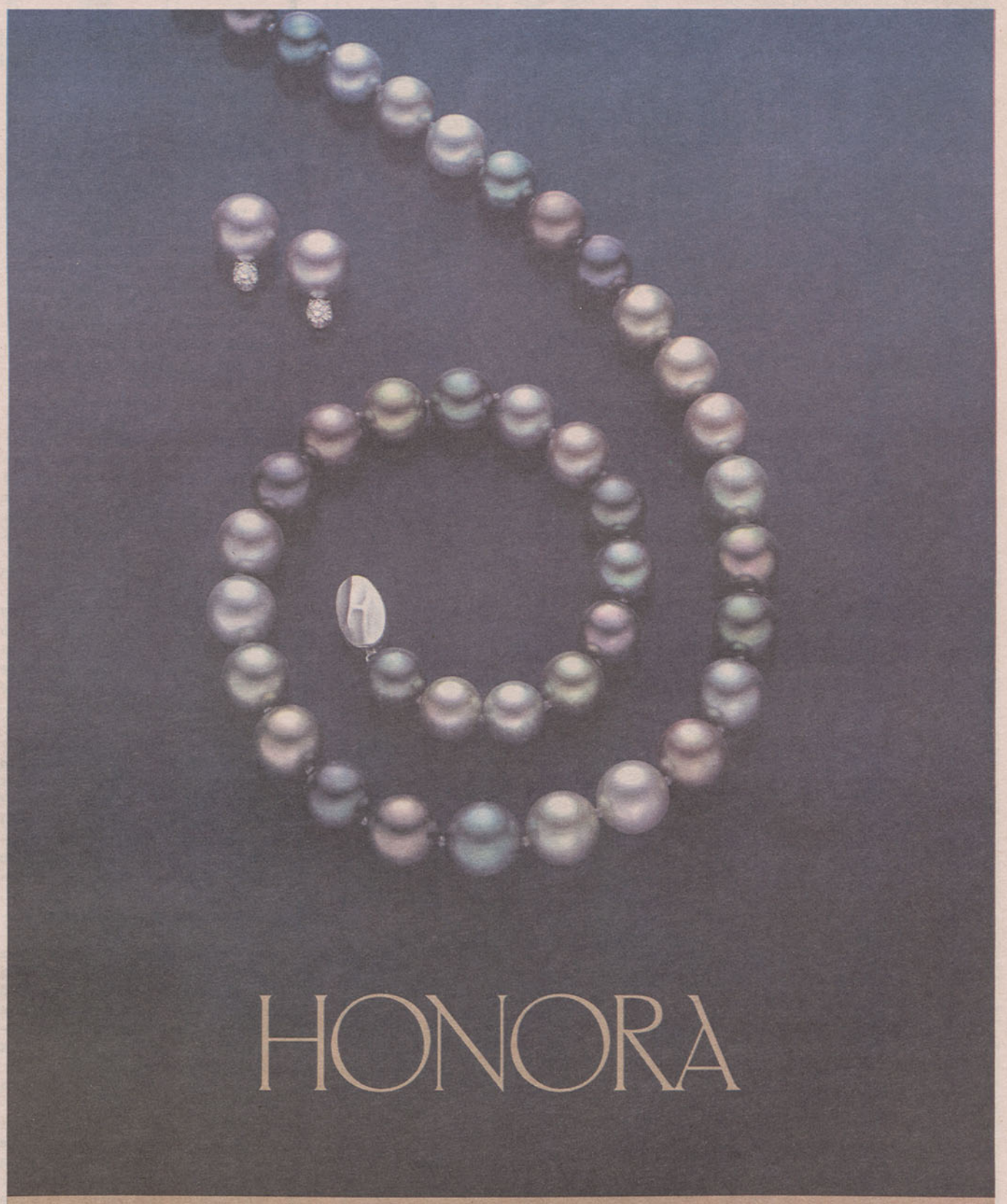

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2007 Holiday Shopping Guide

it eliminates the need for them to pack sixty bulky, framed photos. Or opt for a key chain digital picture frame that holds fifteen photos for $20. It eliminates the need to carry fifteen key chains.

Sometimes a craft project calls for a power tool. A company called Wallnut Hollow saw a niche and came out with a line of tools for women, called Designed for Her, that includes power screwdrivers,

The ecological gift giver

Tips for a recycled holiday

Tiffany "Tomato" Threadgould was destined to become a professional recycler.

The Michigan native grew up in a family of serious recyclers and reusers. "We had a huge garden when I was a kid, and we'd compost all the apple and orange peels and things like that," she recalls. "I was also very involved in 4-H, which is where I got my craftiness."

As an adult, Threadgould fashioned a business out of her love of making things from recycled materials. Her New York City–based company, RePlayGround, specializes in graphic, packaging, product, furniture, and web design with a serious dose of recycled flair.

She finds inspiration on the streets of the city, which have been a gold mine of recycled finds: the decor of her apartment includes a coffee table that someone else discarded and a light fixture that she made from an abandoned mannequin. For the holiday season, Threadgould turns burned-out Christmas lights into earrings and makes greeting cards from old New York subway maps.

Threadgould says Ann Arbor has its own magical sources of material to recycle into holiday gifts. She spent four years here as a designer for the local toy company Giddy Up, and she swears by the Scrap Box, the southside nonprofit that sells surplus material by the bagful. "It's awesome—they have tons of materials that can be turned into something else," says Threadgould. "It's a great source of inspiration. You can go there and pick up a ton of different materials—then throw a holiday party and have your friends make their own ornaments."

Friend and former coworker Kellie Hebert-Follin caught the crafty-recycling bug from Threadgould. She was already an avid knitter, and Threadgould's knack for giving used objects a second life inspired her to take up felting—a technique for condensing and binding natural fibers (usually wool).

Hebert-Follin says she's found both inspiration and raw materials at Value World on Maple—she appreciates the variety and color selection of the wool sweaters. After shrinking them in a washing machine, she turns the fiber into felt that she uses to make all sorts of wine cozies, purses, cell phone holders, and flower pins.

"I love the whole process of reusing something and giving it a new life," she says. "These things are cool, and they have a great texture. They're unique and not something you can buy at a store. And they have their own stories." One of her favorite creations—a cell phone holder—started life as one of her grandmother's funky sweaters.

Recycled gifts can spread both goodwill and a good message. "There's a lot of garbage in this world," says Threadgould, "and this is my way of informing people and showing them how not everything is garbage. Things can be given a second life if you look at them a little differently."

One final tip from the master: Think outside the box when it comes to wrapping paper.

"There's no reason to buy new wrapping paper," Threadgould says. "Why don't you reuse something, like old sheet music? The ReUse Center has old books that are frayed around the edges. The books' paper would be perfect for wrapping gifts."

—Kyle Norris

MARK BIALEK

Kellie Hebert-Follin turns old sweaters into unique felted gifts.

For instructions on making a felt business-card holder, visit Kellie Hebert-Follin's website, fancyfelting.com/projects.html; Tiffany Threadgould's website is replayground.com.

sanders, and rotary tools. They look like regular power tools, but they're built smaller so they'll fit more comfortably in a woman's hand, and they have pink and green accents. Michaels in Arborland sells the power screwdriver for $17; the packaging urges you to reach inside and "feel the soft handle!"

If you know people who always decant before they drink, get them a $9 wine decanter brush at Morgan and York on Packard. It's a long, thin, flexible brush that slips into the narrowest of necks to scrub the places you can't reach by hand. And if they break a lot of wine glasses trying to wash those, there's always the $7 stemware brush.

Princess Designs Jewelry & Gifts, in Kerrytown, has what must be one of the largest selections of amber jewelry in town. Tiny pendants start at $12; ornate brooches and rings go for more than $100. Pick conventional shapes like ovals and teardrops, or go for the unusual: silver frogs, cats, fish, and rabbits with pieces of amber set in their bellies. The store also specializes in Russian imports, including several variations on the classic Russian *matryoshka* nesting dolls, in which one hollow, hand-painted figure fits inside another. They start at $130.

Kitsch meets chic with V2V's state tourism drinking glasses. Wonderfully retro, each glass commemorates a different state of the union with colorful slogans, road maps, symbols, and cultural icons. Michigan's features colorfully painted city names, the head of an Indian, a lighthouse, a wolverine, and various sports team pennants. They're $12 each, and matching cotton dish towels are $10. V2V also has a sleekly curved Alessi teakettle crafted of stainless steel for $139. A ceramic bird sits atop the spout and "whistles" when the water boils.

Collected Works has a black silk holiday coat by designer Lee Andersen that's so stunning it could dress up a pair of pajamas. It's $600. Less expensive, but equally showstopping: silk velvet frock coats that tie in the front and have a gathered waist in the back, for $160. They come in a rich chocolate brown, an icy blue, and a vivid bottle green.

Give a socially conscious gift with fair-trade products from the People's Food Co-op. The store stocks a wide selection of products from World of Good, including conventionally shaped and bucket-shaped bamboo salad serving bowls, $35, and acacia wood serving platters made by women in the Philippines, $15 and up. While you're there, check out the display rack of Maggie's Organics socks, great for stuffing in the toe of a stocking—or, in a pinch, serving as a stocking. They're $6.89 a pair.

What if someone on your list really wants a Roboreptile? Well, you won't find them at Lowe's—but you will find them at Toys R Us for $89. I know, because that's where Santa found the one he left at the foot of the bed for my son. ■

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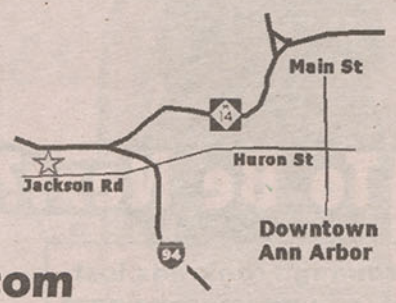

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WHOLE FOODS MARKET

Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

J.ADRIAN WYLIE

Kal Farah decided to open in Ann Arbor after surveying customers at his parents' IHOP in Livonia.

Carb attack!

IHOP arrives in Ann Arbor

This scene has surely repeated itself in homes across the county for years: You open the Sunday *Ann Arbor News*, and out falls a slick coupon promising 50¢ off on the newest outlandish seasonal concoction at **IHOP** (at the moment, a carrot pancake with cream cheese topping). After one shimmering hallucinatory moment of sugar-shock anticipation, you're once again crushed by the fine print: the closest IHOP is in Livonia.

Well, that just changed. Kal Farah, whose family owns the Livonia IHOP franchise, has just finished building his own restaurant near Showcase Cinema. Farah, twenty-seven, earned a master's degree in medical sciences, but he decided to return to the restaurant business; while working at the Livonia IHOP, he pinpointed Ann Arbor as the perfect place. "I got a map, put it on the bulletin board, and asked our guests where they were coming from. I knew I shouldn't put one too close to Livonia"—out of respect for the competition, namely his parents—"but I wanted to be close enough to commute between the two of them." His real estate agent's traffic data confirmed his pins-on-a-map market research. So when property on Ellsworth near Carpenter came up for sale, he bought it and built the restaurant to the newest IHOP specs: "They kept the blue roof, the A-frame, but it's more warm and welcoming," without the cavernous cathedral ceiling inside.

IHOP is now the official name of what was originally the International House of Pancakes. While the lunch and dinner items are not quite as original as the breakfast creations, even these seem to rely less on industry groupthink than the offerings at many chain eateries (bacon-and-egg cheeseburger, anyone?). Carbs and cholesterol have been good to IHOP: the company just bought Applebee's.

When the company was founded in 1958 in California, there was no such thing as restaurant irony or retrochic. But ironic or not, the name was catchy: the fusion of the down-home "pancake" idea with the pompous "international house of" prefix practically begged for pop culture icon status, which duly followed. A seminal episode of the brilliant and short-lived 1970s soap *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* takes place in an IHOP. Elmore Leonard characters close their deals in IHOPs. Even the acronym IHOP, with its accidental pronoun and verb, has a can't-miss Anglo-Saxon breeziness.

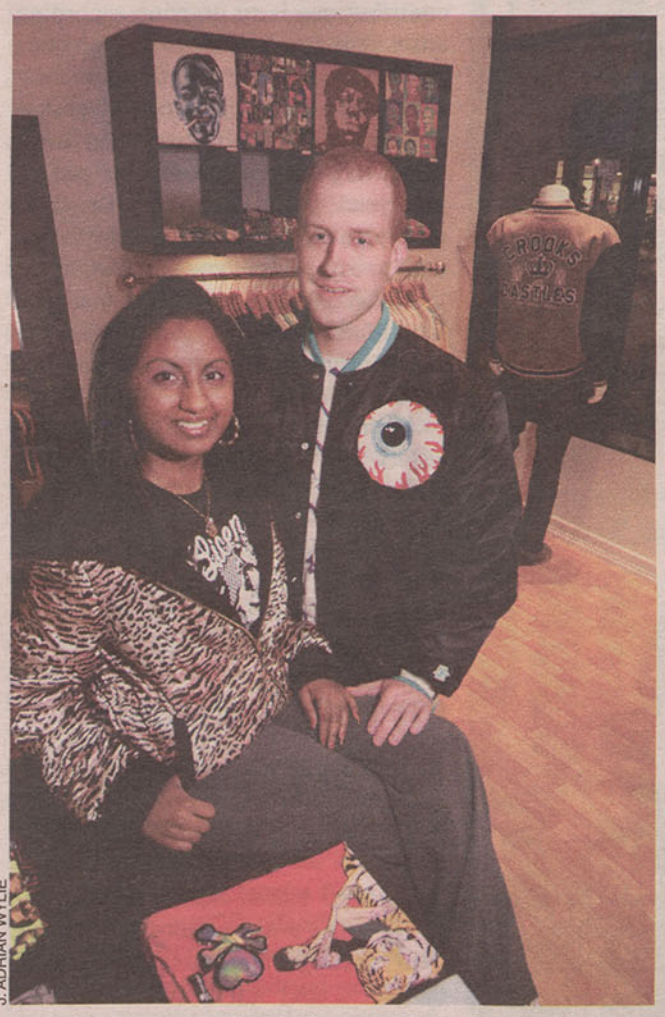
To open his new IHOP, Farah hired 136 people. "I'll settle on sixty to ninety," he says. "You always hire a lot more than you need—they don't show up, they quit, whatever. I'm in love with this Ann Arbor staff. I look for personality more than experience." And he could afford to be choosy: he winnowed his 136 down from a pool of 2,300 applicants—a staggering number that he admits says more about the economy than about a local passion for working in the pancake profession.

IHOP, 4221 Ellsworth, 528–4467. Sun.–Thurs. 6 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 6 a.m.–midnight. Starting in January, open twenty-four hours Thurs., Fri., & Sat.

Motivation's brave new look

"Streetwear" on South U

Motivation Boutique opened in late October on South University in a space that was formerly Fuzion Game Center. It's been stripped to its bare bones and painted a soothing white. That was a good choice—the clothing that hangs there is all the decor a small shop can handle.



J.ADRIAN WYLIE

"Loud, extreme, anime influenced": Motivation Boutique's Mike Moeller and Indra Lachhman showcase their store's high-volume streetwear.

"What we carry are independent streetwear brands, many of them in limited distribution, from L.A. and New York," says co-owner Mike Moeller, twenty-five. He holds up a shirt: "This brand is called Tokidoki. They're loud, extreme, anime influenced." And these are the women's clothes.

Asked to define streetwear, he says, "A lot of people get it confused with urban wear, but it's a mix of urban wear, punk rock, and skateboard clothing. It's all those cultures fused into one. It's a lifestyle."

Moeller moves to the men's side of the shop and points out another best-seller, a

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Lisa McDonald, husband Mark Hewko, and their new boutique, TeaHaus.

Loose teas on Fourth Avenue

Lisa McDonald's store has a German connection

Over 3 billion cups of tea are consumed every day around the globe, making it the most popular drink in the world after water. Lisa McDonald hopes coffee-loving Ann Arborites will put down their lattes long enough to find out why.

McDonald owns **TeaHaus,** a tea store that was scheduled to open on Fourth Avenue in late November. She carries more than 180 kinds of loose teas, along with everything you need to brew it at home, from teapots to tea strainers.

Teas start at $6 for 100 grams and run as high as $58.90 for 100 grams of Darjeeling White Phoobsering First Flush; one of the world's most sought-after teas, it comes from the oldest part of India's Darjeeling region and is harvested only one or two days a year. Most average around $10 for 100 grams, which is enough to make about forty cups.

TeaHaus sells tea the way it's sold in Germany—hence the German name. "Most people don't associate Germany with tea, but Germany is the world's largest tea blender," McDonald says. "Pretty much every town has an apothecary-style tea store." Think of an old-fashioned pharmacy, except the walls are lined with tea tins instead of pill jars, and the proprietor weighs the tea out for you the way an apothecary would. "And being German, they have specific directions and instructions on how to make each tea," she laughs. McDonald, who has a degree in intercultural communications from the University of Colorado, worked in Germany for ten years training Germans to do business with Americans.

Another thing the Germans taught her about tea: keep it in tins. "The teas are so gorgeous, you'll think, 'I want to put that in a glass jar,'" McDonald says. "But you won't be doing your tea any favors." That's because light ruins tea. So do odors—tea absorbs them.

Neither is a risk you'd want to run with the tea McDonald sells: her whole-leaf loose teas come in a riot of colors, shapes, and textures, and some varieties actually look like miniature garden salads. It isn't the kind of tea most Americans are used to, which generally comes in tea bags, and McDonald has disquieting news on that front.

"The tea you get in a tea bag is basically dust," she says. "It's what they sweep up off the floor."

Motivation Boutique, 1203 South University, 769–2260. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–7 p.m.

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She's not exaggerating. McDonald gets her tea from TeeGschwendner, Europe's premier purveyor of loose teas. After the company's tea makers finish the complex process of turning raw leaves into brewable loose tea, they don't have to worry about cleaning the factory floor. "They have contracts with some [tea bag] companies that allow them to come in and collect the tea that winds up on the floor," McDonald says. "When you buy high-quality loose tea, you get the full leaf. It's what they would throw away that goes into the tea bag."

TeaHaus, 204 North Fourth Avenue, 622–0460. Daily 10 a.m.–7 p.m. through Christmas.

Not just doorknobs

Expressions Design Center moves to Scio

"Everyone knows us for the knobs. That's how we started," says Sam Georgakas, co-owner of **Expressions Design Center,** explaining the current store's evolution from Expressions in Hardware, first in Oak Valley and then in the former Ace Barnes Hardware store on West Stadium. (Sam insists that his wife, Toula, is the real owner, but during the chaos of the move he's pinch-hitting as her press agent.) The new store, which had a soft opening around the end of October, anchors the new Scio Towne Plaza in front of the Quality 16 theaters. An elegant Greek-accented Cary Grant look-alike, Georgakas is unfailingly smooth and courteous, yet his smile becomes a trifle forced when the knobs come up. "We'd like people to know we do other things," he says.

At Expressions Design, knobs are the icing on the cake. The cake is the bath and kitchen furniture, fixtures, and lighting that you might discover you need when you see how those $100 Sóko drawer pulls look on your Home Depot clearance-sale cabinets.

The new 7,000-square-foot store still has several aisles of dangerously high-end novelty drawer pulls and doorknobs, but the name change (which happened while Expressions was still on Stadium) emphasizes that knobs are the icing on the cake. The cake is the equally high-end bath and kitchen furniture, fixtures, and lighting that you might discover you need when you see how those $100 Sóko drawer pulls look on your Home Depot clearance-sale cabinets.

"We want to be one-stop shopping," Georgakas says, pointing out that "what builders do is project management, and it's easier to deal with us than seven different vendors." They sell it all, from toilets to ceiling fans. He adds that it's a business in which the newest competitor in town has the advantage—for a few years, anyway: "Other places have a lot of older inventory on the floor, but we got to start fresh. Everything here is new." The display merchandise was still coming out of boxes at press time, but Sam showed some of his favorite picks: Hubbardton Forge lighting, bronze Rocky Mountain hardware, Toto toilets, Hansgrohe faucets, Dynasty cabinetry.

The Georgakases are also part owners of Scio Towne Plaza. Expressions takes up the short part of the L-shaped building. The long part is divided into nine units; one will shortly be U.S. Nails (beauty supply, not more hardware). Sam says they're currently negotiating with a cigar club, a coffee and ice cream shop, and a jewelry store to fill the other vacancies.

Expressions Design Center, 3780 Jackson Road, 997–0636. Mon.–Wed. & Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sun.

Briefly Noted

The Main Street area has its share of exclusive custom jewelry stores, but Sanghun Lee, who opened **Annabelle,** is coming at jewelry from the opposite direction. He started in hair extensions in Detroit.

Lee earned a degree in theater arts in Korea and one in graphic arts at EMU, but he ditched his career plans when his daughter was born and he found that a Broadway set designer is likely to start at $20,000 a year. Instead, he opened a beauty supply shop called Ebony at Eight Mile and Gratiot, where he sold extensions, wigs, and some jewelry. It was a good location, he says, "but this hair extensions business is going, going—" He struggles for words to explain a complex concept.

Going out of style, perhaps? "Not going out of style, but going out of *hair*." As China's development boom continues, people no longer need to sell their hair, and the hair extensions supply business is moving to India. "But because the weather is hot, their hair is thinner and not as good. Or there is synthetic, but synthetic hair doesn't match human hair. It is shiny—has a different texture." (Hidden behind the counter of Annabelle are some of his hard-won high-quality Chinese hair extensions.)

Lee's merchandise, delicate and arty, is mostly in the $20–$70 range. A large part of the floor space of the tiny shop (formerly a Sunglasses Hut) is a showcase for his favorite jewelry designer, Nakamol, a Thai friend of his who lives in Chicago and has a factory in Thailand. She favors showers of silk threads, freshwater pearls, and other natural stones. Lee also has small displays of chunky steel bangles from India, green amber from Poland, silver, onyx, mother of pearl, and "cheap stuff for the schoolkids" made of glittery rhinestones. Lined up along the top shelf are dozens of jewelry caddies, each like a Belle Epoque doll with spindles where the head and arms should be.

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

Lee occasionally labors over spoken English, but his intuitions for symbol and allusion are deep. The store's name was chosen as a tribute to another Lee, Poe's "Annabel Lee," with the "Ann" referring to Ann Arbor and "belle" meaning "beautiful" in French. Lee admits he often finds this too much to explain to casual inquirers; to simplify things, he tells them the store is named after his daughter.

Annabelle, 315½ South Main, 997–9735. Mon.–Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m.

Also moving to Main Street—finally—is **Alex Gulko Custom Jewelry.** We reported last spring that Gulko was moving to 305 South Main, but Da Vinci's Salon and Gallery set up shop there instead. "I am not at liberty to disclose at this time" what happened, says Gulko, but in mid-November he moved instead into the space recently vacated by Generations a few doors down.

Alex Gulko Custom Jewelry, 337 South Main, 741–0652. Tues.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon.

If the service at Krazy Jim's Blimpy Burger weren't so notoriously quirky, Richard Singer says, he never would have opened **Wolverine Subs 'N' Burgers** in the back of the BP station at Main and William. Singer, an experienced short-order cook, had been thinking about leasing the station's small, in-store lunch counter, which was standing empty after several unsuccessful incarnations, but he and his silent partner weren't sure what to do with it. "We knew we could do subs out of here, but we didn't know what else we could do," Singer says. "I would have passed on this place . . . until I got treated badly by the competitors down the street."

Singer says he went to Blimpy Burger with a friend who ordered five double burgers, and although Singer wasn't hungry, he ordered one single to be companionable. "[The cook] just looked at me and said, 'Uh-uh,'" Singer recalls. "He says, 'Unless you can show me an ID that shows me you're five years old or younger, you have to buy [at least] a double.'" Singer was flabbergasted—and inspired: "As we were driving away, I said, 'I know what we can do. We're gonna sell dollar burgers.'"

Since Wolverine Subs 'N' Burgers opened three and a half months ago, it's sold a "ton of dollar burgers," says Singer, who mans the grill six days a week. "All these young high school kids and junior high kids come in, and all they've got is a dollar." Wolverine Subs 'N' Burgers also sells double, triple, and veggie burgers, plus a variety of toasted subs. The lunch counter has half a dozen stools, but most people get their food to go.

All dollar burgers come with mustard, ketchup, pickles, and grilled onions. Especially grilled onions—they're a deal breaker for Singer. "[Blimpy Burger] charges fifty cents for grilled onions," he marvels. "How do you eat a slider without grilled onions? So I don't charge for them and I never will."

Wolverine Subs 'N' Burgers, 402 South Main, 997–3800. Mon.–Wed. 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Sun.

Children's Orchard is moving just a short distance—from Woodland Plaza (next to Busch's) to the Colonnade. But company vice-president Cathy Marks calls it a big change: "We feel the space will be more visible, closer to the freeway, better for people coming in from Chelsea or shopping at the new Whole Foods" (the Whole Foods will be going into Cranbrook across the street).

Resale is a multilayered category; Children's Orchard occupies the top layer. Its gently used children's clothing and equipment sells for 10 to 80 percent off new retail prices. "It's upscale in quality of merchandise and in the look and feel of the store," says Marks. The 100-store franchise chain started in the East but is now headquartered in Ann Arbor (the Ann Arbor store is company owned). The new location is scheduled to open on December 6 with a fill-a-bag event; for members of the MOMS Club, a website mailing list, there will be a preview from 5 to 8 p.m. December 5.

Children's Orchard, 887 West Eisenhower (the Colonnade), 995–8889. Mon.–Wed., Fri., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Tree Town Toys in Traver Village is moving its back stock and online business out of its 1,500-square-foot store and into a 10,000-square-foot-warehouse, increasing its retail sales space by a third. Tricia Masing says she and her co-owner husband, Hans, will use the extra space to carry more items from old favorites like German toymaker Haba, known for its wooden toys, and PlanToys, which makes toys and furniture from recycled Thai rubber trees; they also plan to bring in new lines like Rokenbok construction toys. And they finally have room to stock baby strollers—customers have been asking for strollers and other baby items since the Masings opened the store a year ago. "We would like to focus on being the best toy store in the area," Tricia says.

The Masings are also expanding their four-year-old online business, the Brain Station. Right now their business is one-third online sales and two-thirds retail sales. "We expect in a year that will be flip-flopped," Tricia says.

Tree Town Toys, 2611 Plymouth Road, 929–6545. Mon.– Wed. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. www.brain-station.com.

National Computer Supply was one guy named Dave Issel selling office supplies out of his home until he moved into his first retail space at Fifth Avenue and Catherine in July 2006. Six months later, he moved out. "The space just wasn't working out," says Issel.

Space, or the lack of it, was the problem. Walk-in sales are a small part of his business; the bulk of it is wholesale delivery to companies, so he needed a lot of inventory on hand. "So I went looking for a bigger space," he says. But first he had to go looking for another HUBZone site, because he didn't open a brick-and-mortar store for the retail sales alone.

HUB is the federal government's acronym for a historically underutilized business district. The HUBZone program is designed to stimulate economic development by awarding federal contracts to companies that put their principal office in one of the designated zones. Issel does a lot of business with the government, and it's no coincidence that his old store qualified for the program.

He found another one on Hogback Road. Most of his business is still wholesale delivery, and while you can walk in off the street to buy office supplies, you'll have to work at it, because there's no sign out front. "I could put one up," said Issel, whose wholesale delivery business is brisker than ever. "I just never took it out of the box."

National Computer Supply, 2010 Hogback, 827–2255. Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. nationalcompsupply.com.

Champion House has gone through several owners since it opened, but it always retained its original character: to the left of the entrance on Liberty was a Japanese steak house, to the right a darkly old-fashioned Chinese restaurant furnished with imposing wooden booths. When Hai Pham (six years a chef at the Dearborn Benihana) and Hoa Nguyen bought the place a year ago, they slowly started working toward what will be a very different plan, and now they're just about at the halfway point.

The short walls that carved up the one-time Pretzel Bell space into smaller, darker spaces are gone, and so are the booths. "Very soon," says Nguyen, "we will move the liquor bar to the front. And coming soon, bento boxes for lunch," as well as more grill-topped tables.

The plan is to drop the Chinese menu entirely. In fact, you could get the impression it's been dropped already—the traditional tables (as opposed to the ones with the hot grill in the center) now sport a laminated sushi guide—but Chinese food will still be available for a while.

Champion House, 120 East Liberty, 741–8100. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 5–10 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 5–10:30 p.m., Sat. noon–3 p.m. (lunch) & 3–10:30 p.m. (dinner), Sun. noon–9 p.m. (dinner).

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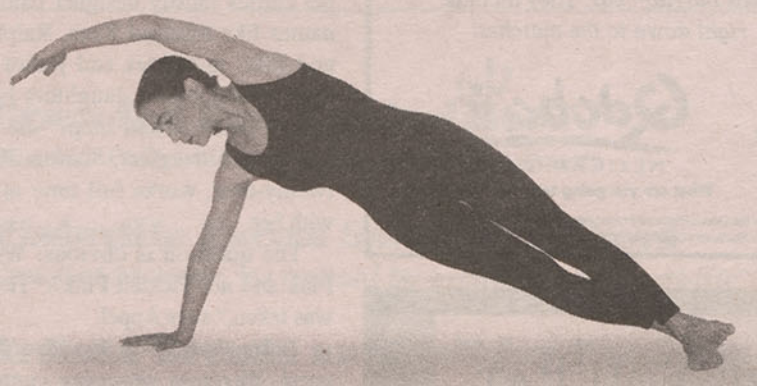
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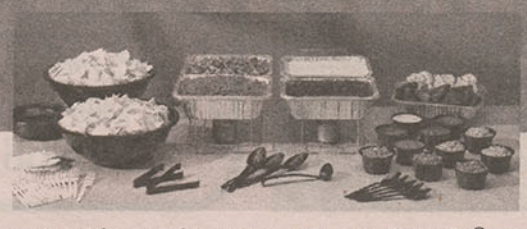
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Marketplace Changes *continued*

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After six years of living in Las Vegas and running a nonprofit organization, social worker Darla Appel moved back home to Ann Arbor and spent the next eighteen months looking for work. "One day I said, 'You know what? If you can't find a job, create one,'" says Appel. Her clothing store, **Tickle Pink,** was scheduled to open in Westgate at the end of November.

Appel, a vivacious forty-five-year-old who co-owns the store with her husband, Dennis, has no previous retail experience, but she does have a way of jumping into things with both feet. That's how her family wound up in Las Vegas in the first place. "We were going out to visit three times a year, and I finally said, 'It'll be cheaper if we just lived out there,'" she says, laughing. "Next thing we knew, we had a For Sale sign up!" Dennis, an engineer, had three job offers in his first month, and she had no trouble finding work, either. But the Appels, who have two grown children, still had two at home: a daughter, now fourteen, and a son, twelve. They moved back to Michigan so they could send their kids to the public schools in Ann Arbor. Jobs may be booming in Las Vegas, Appel notes, "but the education's better back here."

Tickle Pink sells about equal amounts of new and like-new used women's clothing and accessories, including scarves, hats, jewelry, shoes, purses, and belts. Appel carries mostly designer clothing from names like Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, and IMC in misses and junior sizes. "I want mothers and daughters both to be able to come in and shop," she says. Her own grown daughter, Shawna Broughton, twenty-four, works full time in the store with her.

The question is obvious: Why Tickle Pink and not Tickled Pink? "Tickled Pink was taken," says Appel.

Tickle Pink, 2463 West Stadium Boulevard (Westgate shopping center), 622–0822. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Sun.

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Dave Cornish and his wife, Marge, reopened **Baxter's** in Baxter's Plaza two and a half years after they closed it—because, they say, they discovered that "full retirement is not all it's thought to be." But the Cornishes' retirement also didn't go as planned. One of the main reasons the couple closed the store in 2005 was that Costco offered to buy their liquor license and some of their land, and the deal was too good to pass up. But Scio Township residents united against the Costco deal, and it fell through. Since by then the Cornishes had already closed Baxter's, they figured they'd give retirement a try. It didn't take: the couple grew restless, and Dave wanted to get back on the job. They resurrected the store in mid-October.

The Cornishes are doing things on a smaller scale this time around. The store occupies just one-third of its former space, because they rented the rest to the Grand Traverse Pie Company. The name is smaller, too—shrunk from Baxter's Wine Shop, Deli, & Bakery to just Baxter's. The Cornishes still sell wine, but they didn't revive the deli and bakery—they didn't want to compete with their new tenants. "The Grand Traverse Pie Company does a nice job on that," says Dave, "and we wanted to keep this operation simpler."

That means focusing on wine, beer, and liquor—Baxter's carries a much bigger selection of all three than it did before. And though it used to open at 6:30 a.m. when it included a bakery, now it opens at 11. "There's not too many people who are shopping for a bottle of scotch at ten in the morning," says Dave.

Baxter's, 293 North Zeeb, 332–9510. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–8:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m.

Closings

Daniel and Delphine Stephens are coming to the end of a nine-year odyssey of success, expansion, migration, rightsizing, wrongsizing, and downsizing that began in 1998, when they opened their first Ann Arbor **Ethnic Creations** store on State Street. Then, as now, they carried clothing and jewelry imported from around the world. In 2001 they opened **Kayu** around the corner on East Liberty, where they branched out into Southeast Asian furniture and musical instruments. Seeking cheaper rent, they closed both campus stores in 2003, moved the combined inventory to a single location in Westgate shopping center, and reopened as Kayu in a 4,200-square-foot space. But the move proved temporary.

"It was too big, and I was hoping to grow into it," says Daniel. "That never really happened." So he and Delphine closed Kayu in July 2006 and moved around the corner to a 900-square-foot space near Minsky the Tailor, where they reopened as Ethnic Creations. To fit in the smaller space, they had to eliminate the furniture and handicrafts and concentrate on clothing and jewelry. But that move proved temporary, too. "The location just doesn't work," says Daniel, citing a lack of parking and walk-in traffic. The Stephenses plan to close Ethnic Creations for good on December 31.

They'll still have plenty to do running their flagship Ethnic Creations store in Petoskey; it's always been the real moneymaker. And then there's the globe hopping. "We still do all the traveling for purchasing," Daniel says; he ticks off upcoming buying trips to China, Thailand, and Ecuador. In some ways, closing the Ann Arbor location may come as a relief. As Daniel admits, "the store doesn't keep us very busy."

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Bombay Company, the home furnishings store at Arborland, is closing, along with the 382 other Bombay stores in the United States. Why the Texas-based retail-

er—somewhat like Pier 1's slightly gaudier younger sister—had failed did not interest any of the current store employees. "Don't know," said one. "You'll have to do your own investigation on that," said another. Still another, Devona Parrish, offered that the Ann Arbor Bombay will "probably be open through the holidays" and that "all merchandise is twenty to forty percent off."

Erika Grande opened **Akire Coffee** in the fall of 2005 as a brick-and-mortar complement to her online store, which sold fair-trade, organic coffee beans. The Packard Street cafe is definitely closed—the folks at neighboring PJ's Used Records say it's been shuttered for a couple of months—and the online store may be closed as well. Calls to Akire Coffee's 800 number went unanswered.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column featured lots of existing businesses on the move but only four new stores. Only one of them, **EB** (aka Electronics Boutique), at Briarwood, has survived. The other three—used-music shop **Record Exchange** on South University, **NTB** (National Tire & Battery) on Washtenaw, and **B1,** a short-lived housewares store at the mall—are long gone.

December 1997 survival rate: 25 percent

Five years ago this month, we covered five new retail and restaurant ventures. Two of those businesses have since closed: **Road Runner,** the restaurant that replaced Azure and was in turn replaced by Los Tres Amigos; and **Tabor Hill,** a wine shop and tasting room on West Liberty. Department store **Von Maur** is still anchoring Briarwood's south end, **Barnes & Noble Booksellers** is still duking it out with Borders on Washtenaw, and **Acme Mercantile,** downtown on West Liberty, is still selling an eclectic mix of housewares, kitsch, and clothing.

December 2002 survival rate: 60 percent

One year ago this month, this column reported on six new businesses, all still open: **Ink Solution** on West Stadium; **Rapid Refill** on North Main; **Rio Wraps** on East William; **Eyemedia Sound & Vision** on West Stadium; the **Orchid Lane Warehouse** next to its sister store on East Liberty; and the **Metro Cafe,** at Fourth Avenue and Catherine.

December 2006 survival rate: 100 percent

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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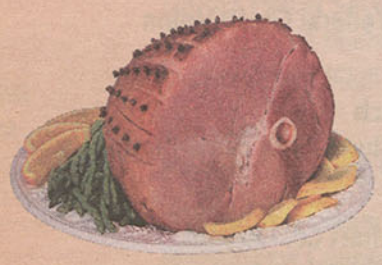

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MUSIC IN THE KEY OF A²
A²SO

12.1

Part of the Dickinson Wright Family Concert Series

Sing-Along with Santa

> 4 pm, Bethlehem United Church of Christ

- Lucy Ann Lance, emcee
- Carols, storytelling, photos with Santa
- Ann Arbor Community High Jazz Band
- Cider and cookies from 5-6 pm

12.8

Heroes

> 8 pm, Michigan Theater

- BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"*
- STRAUSS *Don Quixote*

12.1 concert made possible by: Dickinson Wright; National Endowment for the Arts

12.8 concert made possible by: Pfizer; meda michigan council for arts and cultural affairs; Campbell Industries

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school of art & design

www.art-design.umich.edu

DECEMBER
2007

12.03 - 12.21
INSTALLATION: Night Butterfly

An installation including sculpture, cloth and paintings on glass by School of Art & Design visiting artist Tuan Tran inspired by the poem "Oh!/ A night butterfly... a night butterfly...Yes!/I want to break the dark night into thousands of butterflies."

Art & Architecture Building west hallway
2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

12.07
PRESENTATION: 19171987: Common Bonds Through the "Ages"

A presentation of videos, objects, musical instruments and books, from the joint project between the students of A&D Asst. Professor Satoru Takahashi and the members of "Memory Keepers" at Turner Senior Resource Center. In this project, students and elders worked together to make art work dealing with memory and memory loss.

Friday, December 7
6:30PM – 8:00pm

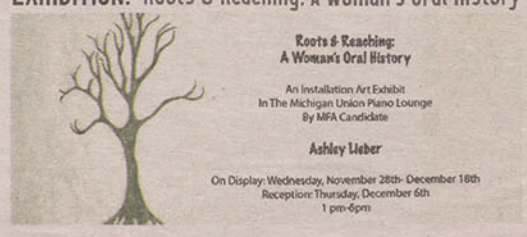
Duderstadt Center Video and Performance Studio
2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

11.16 - 12.15
EXHIBITION: 6th Annual All Student Exhibition

A&D's yearly mega-exhibition, with student work in all media filling three of the School's galleries.

Jean Paul Slusser Gallery
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 1st floor
Warren Robbins Gallery
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 1st floor
Work : Ann Arbor
306 S. State

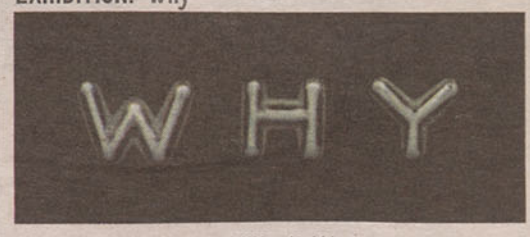
11.28 - 12.18
EXHIBITION: Roots & Reaching: A Woman's Oral History



An exhibition by A&D graduate student Ashley Lieber, including presentations by students Katie Miller, Lisa Hardurich, and Andrew McBride on the experience of taking a personal oral history.

UM Michigan Union Piano Lounge
530 S. State St.

11.17 - 1.18
EXHIBITION: Why



Statements by Detroit and UM artist/designers on what motivates their creative output are paired with those pieces that speak to their motivations.

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Sign language interpreter provided upon advance request for lectures. University of Michigan, School of Art & Design, Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069. Most events are free and open to the public. For more information, telephone 734.763.1265 or email: katewest@umich.edu http://www.art-design.umich.edu

December Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

Michelle Shocked, Dec. 3

Youth Dance Theatre, Dec. 8 & 9

GALLERIES

103 Exhibit Openings — *Laura Bien*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

105 Nightspots Schedule — *John Hinchey*

105 Nightspots Review
Todd Deatherage — *Stephanie Kadel-Taras*

EVENTS REVIEWS

71 Robert Hass
Bliss is what you glimpse — *Keith Taylor*

73 Over the Rhine
A Cincinnati duo on its own path — *James M. Manheim*

79 Cellist Sarah Cleveland plays *Don Quixote*
Who's your hero? — *James Leonard*

85 The Huron Gun Collectors
Everything for the well-armed family — *Charmie Gholson*

89 Whitnie Crown Wolverton sings Dowland
An epicurean experience — *James Leonard*

91 D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A
Whit Hill and John Latini get in the spirit — *Sandor Slomovits*

95 The Concert for Peace
Who's listening? — *Charmie Gholson*

99 Writers Reading at Sweetwaters
Poetry and coffee — *Sandor Slomovits*

128 Events at a Glance

Evan Chambers, Dec. 10

Johnny Winter, Dec. 27

1 SATURDAY

"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a morning hike to look for birds in a variety of habitats and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

Badminton Tournament: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. Tournament with a variety of singles and doubles divisions. *8 a.m., Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, 2960 Washtenaw. Entry fee: $15 ($5 per additional division). Free to spectators. 971–6355.*

★20th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. *November 30–December 2.* This popular community celebration, formerly known as the Festival of Lights, features a variety of entertainment and family activities, along with gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Today's highlights include **a free breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn), a free movie TBA with refreshments (3–5 p.m., Clocktower complex, 310 N. Main), a **downtown light parade** (Main Street & Old US-12), and a **festive after-parade party** (7–9 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory) with community sing led by the vocal ensemble **Counterpoint.** The festival kicks off at 6 p.m. Friday evening with a tree lighting ceremony, a Santa's workshop, a living Nativity display, storytelling, and hayrides. *8:30 a.m.–9 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

Holiday Art and Craft Festival: Ann Arbor Women's City Club. Show and sale of ceramics, textiles, artwork, nature crafts, photography, jewelry, and more. No strollers. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

Artists Market and Craft Show: Huron High School. Around 100 vendors show and sell jewelry, stained glass, wood, textiles, gourmet food, bath and body items, original artwork, and more. Live music by student musicians and school orchestras. Bake sale. Lunch available. Strollers permitted. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. $2 admission (kids 11 and younger, free). 994–2040.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Historical Society. Sale of handmade gift items and Christmas crafts. Also, a sale of homemade breads, cookies, and candies. Santa Claus is on hand to visit with kids and pose for photos. Proceeds benefit the Dexter Area Museum. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

Holiday Gift Bazaar: St. James Episcopal Church. Show and sale of handmade crafts and knitted items and some store-bought products. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., SJEC, 3279 Broad St., Dexter. Free admission. 913–0575.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Show and sale of handmade soap and chocolate, jewelry, handmade crafts, and the popular "Grandma's Attic." *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 913–0575.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Girl Scouts. Show and sale of scout-made hair decorations, knitted hats, door draft stops, heating pads, baked goods and baking mix jars, and holiday decorations and ornaments. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 213–2922.*

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival, with King Winter on hand. An activity room features crafts for kids, a children-only gift room has goodies priced for wee budgets, and a quiet tearoom offers a rest spot. Storytelling. An artisans market offers handmade crafts, and one room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural materials. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. Lunch available, with dishes by area restaurants. Preceded on November 30 by an adults-only preview night, 6:30–10 p.m. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (nominal fee for raffle & cakewalk). 995–4141.*

"Glacial Landforms of the Arb: Arb Ramble": U-M Nichols Arboretum. Local naturalist Robert Ayotte leads a hike through the Arb to look for evidence of glacially shaped formations. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Hts. $5 (members & students, $4). Preregistration required. 647–7600.*

"A Greater Gift Sale": First Presbyterian Church of Saline. Show and sale of jewelry, baskets, toys, musical instruments, and more, crafted by artists in developing countries. Hot chocolate and cookies available. *9:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 143 E. Michigan, Saline. Free admission. 429–4140.*

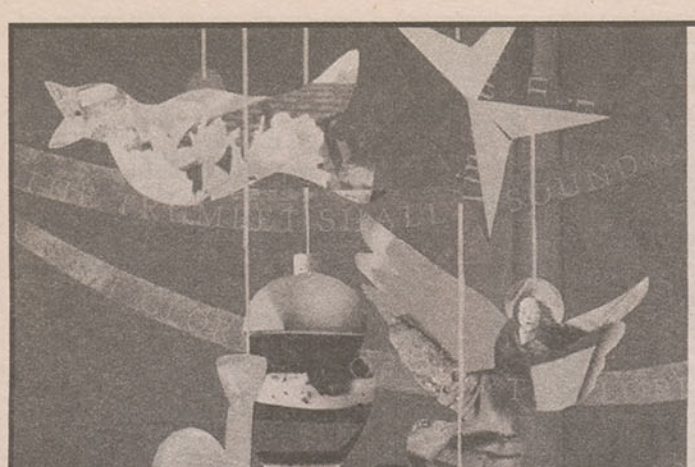
Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 302–7774.*

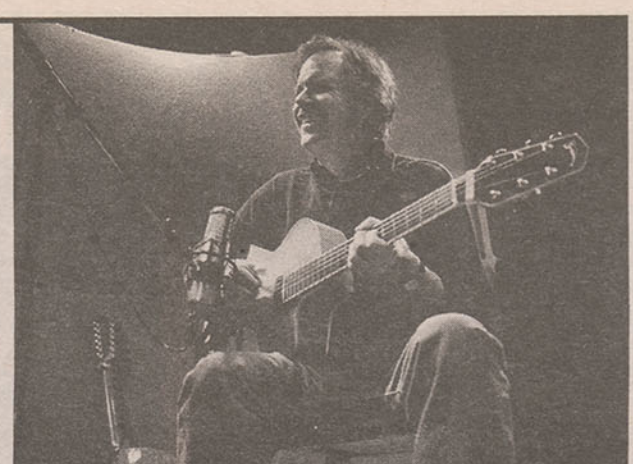
Holiday Open House: Darwin's Stained Glass. Show and sale of stained glass, etched glass, blown glass, fused glass, sunflakes, moon crystals, solar coasters, and antique slot machines. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Darwin's, 9080 Beeman Rd., Chelsea. 475–9730.*

★"Washtenaw County Teen Arts Festival": Washtenaw Area Teens for Tomorrow. *December 1 & 2.* Show of artworks by local teens in a wide array of media, including paintings, drawings, mixed-media works, prints, photos, computer graphics, sculptures, ceramics, glassware, jewelry, metalsmithing, textiles, product designs, and films and videos. *10 a.m.–10 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 2), Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–4384.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *December 1 & 2.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

★"The Corporation": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Screening of Jennifer Abbott and Mark Achbar's entertaining, provocative 2003 documen-





129th UMS Season

December 2007|2008

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union | Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor
SAT, DEC 1 | 8 PM
SUN, DEC 2 | 2 PM
Hill Auditorium

The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union launches the holiday season with its signature work, Handel's glorious oratorio, *Messiah*. An Ann Arbor-area tradition in the beautiful surroundings of Hill Auditorium, these performances are ultimately the heart of UMS, connecting audiences with the talented musicians on stage as well as with friends and family who attend each year.

Supported by the **Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund.**
Media Partners **Michigan Radio** and **Ann Arbor's 107one.**

FREE EDUCATION EVENT
PREP with Dr. Jerry Blackstone
SAT, DEC 1 | 7 PM
SUN, DEC 2 | 1 PM
Hill Auditorium Mezzanine Lobby

UMS Choral Union conductor Jerry Blackstone will give a pre-performance lecture on the historical and musical background of Handel's *Messiah*. You must have a ticket to the *Messiah* performance to attend the free PREP.

Poetry in Music for the Virgin Mary
The Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips director
THU, DEC 6 | 8 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

The Tallis Scholars are the leading practitioners of Renaissance sacred music and take up the seasonal theme on both halves of their program.

PROGRAM

Lheritier	Nigra sum
Palestrina	Missa Nigra sum
Mouton	Quaeramus cum pastoribus
Crecquillon	Quaeramus cum pastoribus
Josquin	Pater noster
Gallus	Pater noster
Gallus	Mirabile mysterium
Gallus	Omnes de Saba

Supported by **Barbara Furin Sloat.**
Media Partner **WRCJ 90.1 FM.**

Youssou N'Dour and The Super Étoile

SAT, DEC 8 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

A longtime superstar in his native Senegal, Youssou N'Dour combines African musical traditions with Afro-Cuban and Western influences to create an enthralling world-pop fusion. Now this powerful cultural icon returns with Africa's hottest band, The Super Étoile, made famous throughout the world during more than 20 years of touring and recording.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, Ann Arbor's 107one,** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**

A Solstice Celebration: *The Festival of Lights*
Leo Kottke and the Turtle Island Quartet

SUN, DEC 9 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

This joyous voyage through world holiday music brings together the iconic, acoustic finger-style guitarists Leo Kottke and the Turtle Island Quartet, an ensemble that fuses the classical quartet aesthetic with contemporary American styles. This collaboration showcases the music of the Jewish and Hindu traditions of the "Festival of Lights" with songs of Chanukah, India's Diwali, old English carols, and Scottish reels coming together in a concert that explores the timeless music that has been part of winter holiday celebrations for centuries.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Metro Times.**

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WEMU 89.1

tary about the inner workings, curious history, controversial impacts, and possible futures of modern global corporate conglomerates. Followed by discussion. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

★**Walk: Grex.** *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Nature Area (December 1) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 8, 15, 22, & 29). *10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Nature Area (Dec. 1) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 8, 15, 22, & 29), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741–9351.*

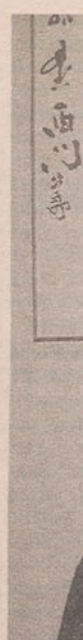
★**"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tileworks.** Hourly studio tours (11 a.m.–4 p.m.) and demonstrations of press-molding tile (noon & 2 p.m.), glazing (12:15 & 2:15 p.m.), and mounting and grouting tile (12:30 p.m.). Participants can also decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile (11 a.m.–4 p.m.) to be glazed and fired for later pickup. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213–0017.*

"Music and Munchies": Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop. Nibble on homemade tidbits while listening to live music by Ann Arbor public school students. Special sales. *10 a.m., Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop, 2280 South Industrial. Free admission. 996–9155.*

"Christkindlmarket": Saline-Lindenberg Friendship Committee. Show and sale of German gifts and food. Also, jewelry, art glass, candles, and more. Kettle korn. A Gluehwein tent features hot wine. Musical entertainment TBA and craft activities for kids. Also, at 1 p.m., 5-km and 10-km walks (registration required), and at 5:30 p.m., a holiday parade along Michigan Avenue celebrating the arrival of Santa. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., downtown Saline. Free admission. 429–2328.*

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. This German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. As visitors tour the kerosene-lamp-lit 2–story brick farmhouse, docents in period dress discuss each room's feature. Free hot cider in the farm's spartan log cabin, where, over a cozy wood fire, docents demonstrate the cooking hook. Also, tours of the one-room Dewey School. Gift shop with goods baked on the woodstove, old-fashioned toys, historical books, handmade soaps and candles, fresh greenery items, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 1) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. $3 admission (seniors $2; children ages 5–17, $1; ages 4 & younger, free). (517) 596–2254, (517) 596–2254.*

★**25th Silver Anniversary Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** *November 30 & December 1–3.* Organizers have announced that this will be the **final year** for one of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, a family-oriented exhibit of creches (Nativity scenes) from 111 countries around the world. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by the well-known local pediatrician Catherine Carroll, who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century *presepio* (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 10 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes over 1,000 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 15-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and handmade Nativity balls. There are also "walk-in" rooms, which include Latin American, African, Eastern European, Asian, and Native American creches, as well as a room of spinning light-mill Nativities and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. One of the most striking displays is a large French Santon village featuring over 100 Santons (minisaints) carrying gifts to the manger. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the more breakable Nativities such as Lladro, Lenox, and some amazing ones from Singa-



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Master calligrapher Keiji Onodera gives a lecture-demonstration at the downtown library Dec. 1.

pore, Mexico, and Peru. One display is a stage with 7 large Nativity marionettes from the Czech Republic. The creches range in size from a tiny clay Holy Family on the end of a pin (viewed with a magnifying glass) to an African Nativity portraying Joseph as a 25½" tall Masai warrior. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 663–3699.*

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *December 1 & 2.* This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's program: **"Car Carnival."** *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 1) & noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 2), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17–bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *10:30 a.m. (Sat.) & noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.), Kerrytown. Free. 369–3107.*

★**"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** Last in this popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and visiting faculty and visiting speakers. Today: Daniel Fisher, curator of the U-M Museum of Paleontology, discusses **"Physics (and Chemistry, and Biology) of Mastodons and Mammoths."** Breakfast refreshments. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Storytime: Borders Express.** *Every Saturday.* A Borders Express staff member reads a variety of kids stories. *11 a.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

★**Guided Tours: Rentschler Farm Historic Museum.** *December 1 & 8.* Docent-guided tours of the farmhouse of this century-old sheep farm, now a museum that depicts 30s rural life. Visitors may also explore the outbuildings. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan, Saline. Free; donations welcome. 944–0442.*

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday and December 27 & 28.* The debut show using the museum's state-of-the-art new Uniview digital planetarium system. *The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 27 & 28) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Black Holes* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 27 & 28) is an animated audiovisual show that begins with the formation of the early universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 449–4300.*

Shadow Art Fair: Michigan Design Militia. Show and sale of glass jewelry, photographs, paintings, handmade bags and scarves, mixed-media artworks, clothing, greeting cards, and more, made by 40 local artists. Live entertainment TBA. *Noon–midnight, Corner Brewery, 720 Norris at Forest (west of River St. north of E. Cross), Ypsilanti. 5 cents admission. 516–1432.*

★**"Children's Jewelry-Making": Washtenaw Community College GalleryOne.** College of Creative Studies student Samantha Schefman helps kids 10–13 make a take-home piece of jewelry. In conjunction with the gallery's ongoing Georg Jensen jewelry exhibit. *1–3:30 p.m., 275 Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg., WCC, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 447–8512.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**Pickup Game: Ann Arbor Ultimate.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to a semicompetitive pickup game of a spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *2 p.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.com.*

★**"Tasty Microwave Creations for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 learn how to make tasty dishes and snacks and take home the recipes. *2–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Japanese Calligraphy: Traditional and Modern": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lecture-demonstration (through a translator) by master calligrapher **Keiji Onodera,** president of the Shodo Research Institute. *2–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

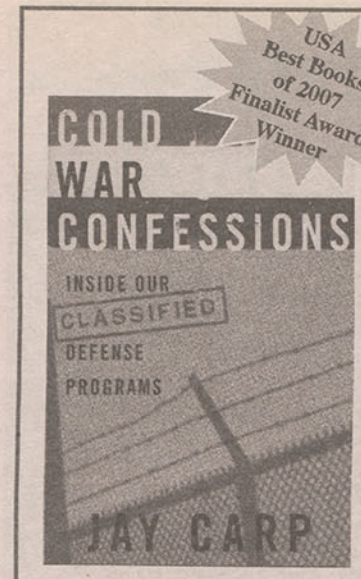
★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2:30–5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**"The AIDS Epidemic": Alliance for World AIDS Relief and Education.** Panel discussion by Center for AIDS Prevention Studies researcher Craig Hutchinson, U-M women's studies lecturer Nesha Haniff, U-M political science graduate instructor Derek Stafford, and HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Ypsilanti) worker Carrie Rheingans. *2:30–4 p.m., Angell Hall auditorium C. Free. 763–0323.*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

"A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas": EMU Theater Department. *December 1, 2, 7, & 8.* EMU drama professor Patricia Zimmer directs EMU drama students in Laurie Brooks's family theater adaptation of Wilder's popular Little House novels about pioneer family life in the Midwest. *3 & 7 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. Group discounts available. 487–1221.*

★**"Day With(out) Art": U-M Museum of Art.** Reading by former U.S. poet laureate **Robert Hass** *(see review, p. 71).* His latest book, *Time and Materials: Poems, 1997–2005,* includes restrained, ruminative poems on everything from the laws of human nature to the joy of peeling a cucumber. *Note:* Hass is at Shaman Drum Bookshop at 2 p.m. on December 2 to sign copies of his book. In conjunction with "Day



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The University of Michigan **Museum of Art** presents

Day With(out) Art

Poetry reading by

Robert Hass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 4PM
Rackham Amphitheater
915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor

Renowned American poet, environmentalist, teacher, and essayist Robert Hass will read from his work to mark this year's Day With(out) Art. Since the first Day With(out) Art on December 1, 1989, this national day of action and mourning has commemorated the devastating toll that HIV and AIDS have taken on the international arts communities. This program is cosponsored by UMMA and the Creative Writing Program of the UM Department of English and is part of the Zell Visiting Writers Series 2007–2008.

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Without Art," which memorializes the impact AIDS has had on artists and performers. *4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion of ***White Boys,*** Reginald McKnight's collection of stories about ordinary people dealing with everyday racism. Also, signing. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 942–6013.*

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. Accompanists are AASO French horn player Andrew Pelletier and pianist Lori Zupan. WAAM radio host Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Cookies and apple cider follow the concert. *4–5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $12 (children 12 & under, $5; families, $30; patrons, $50) in advance at the AASO office, 220 E. Huron suite 470, and at the door. 994–4801.*

★"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. Also, one or more feature films TBA. This month: The kid-friendly ***Gargoyle of the Yoshinagas*** is about a kid whose prize when he wins a lottery is a stone gargoyle that turns out to be alive. The comedy ***Monster Princess*** involves a middle school boy whose life is saved by a monster-killing princess he must then help. The dark fantasy series ***Claymore*** is about shape-shifting human-eating monsters and those who kill them. Raffle. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *5 p.m.–midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. umich.edu/~animania.*

★Year End Celebration: Washtenaw Land Trust. All invited to join members for a potluck (bring a dish to pass or $5), a slide show, music, and a rare chance to take an evening stroll through the conservatory. *6–8 p.m. U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 302–5263.*

10th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. *December 1 & 2.* Tour of several Ypsilanti homes lavishly decorated for Christmas, including an 1848 Greek Revival, an 1851 Italianate (former mayor Cheryl Farmer's home), an 1860 Italianate, EMU's University House, and homes filled with Nativity collections and themed Christmas trees. The December 2 "candlelight" tour includes hors d'oeuvres in each home and wine and desserts in the Ladies Literary Club. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. *6–10 p.m. (Dec. 1) & noon–4:30 p.m. (Dec. 2), various locations. Tickets $30 (both days) & $15 (Dec. 2 only) in advance in Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials and Haab's Restaurant, $20 (Dec. 2 only) day of tour. 487–9669.*

"A Celebration of Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. *December 1 & 2.* Heidi Vitso leads a company of dancers ages 6–18 in a 3-part program celebrating YAD's 40th anniversary. *La Boutique Fantasque* is a ballet about a toymaker and his magical dolls, *Pas de Quatre* is an enchanting prelude for 4 dancers, and *Ain't Misbehavin'* offers a tribute to the music of Fats Waller. Live music by pianist Rick Roe. *2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard. Tickets $13 in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) & Randazzo Dance (4569 Washtenaw), and at the door. 528–9682.*

"Paper Moon: Songs by the Great Song Jewelers": Kerrytown Concert House. The nationally renowned local husband-and-wife duo of pianist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer) **Bill Bolcom** and mezzo-soprano **Joan Morris** perform a program of cabaret songs by an eclectic array of composers, including Irving Berlin, Eubie Blake, Lennon & McCartney, Willard Robinson, Rodgers & Hart, Eric Satie, Sam Davis, Bolcom & Weinstein, John Wallowitch, and others. *7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State. *November 30 & December 1. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

30th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *November 30–December 2.* Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $12 & $15 (ages 12 & under, $8 & $10) in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995–7300.*

"11th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. Jeanne Mackey directs this ad hoc local vocal ensemble in an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Sacred Song members are Julia B., Lisa Marshall Bashert, Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Kathy Moore, Dale Petty, Robin Wilson, Mary Wilkson, LaRon Williams, Rhonda Bantsimba, Mary Anne Perrone, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Don Allen, Dave SmilingSun, Tom Voiles, Gae Winn, Wasentha Young, and director Mackey. Proceeds benefit the New Hope Outreach Clinic and the American Friends Service Committee Criminal Justice Program. *7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. $5–$20 (kids under age 12, free) sliding scale at the door only. 975–8791.*

"Schoolhouse Rock Live!": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. *November 29–December 2.* Anthony Heaphy directs local actors in George Keating, Kyle Hall, and Scott Ferguson's stage version of the popular 70s Saturday morning cartoon series. When a frazzled teacher dreading his first day of teaching tries to relax by watching TV, various TV characters emerge to teach him how to win over his students with imagination and music. The cast includes James Walrod, Graeme Taylor, El Berg, Liam Broadhurst, and Richard Graham. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $8 (students & kids, $5) in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

★"Exit the King": U-M Theatre Department. *November 30 & December 1.* U-M drama professor Mbala Nkanga directs U-M drama students in Eugene Ionesco's 1962 absurdist tragedy, a satiric farce about the hubris of the state. An arrogant king mismanages his kingdom to the extent that it has shrunk to the confines of his garden wall, his nation reduced to the 6 people in his throne room. Unable to command the movements of his own body, the king must face his mortality. *7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

First Saturday Contra: Pittsfield Union Grange. Contra dancing with Mike Clark calling to music by Paul Winder. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free open jam for string and other musicians. For information, call 769–4220. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (AACTMAD members, $8; students $5). 769–1052.*

Vivo Sinfonietta: University Lutheran Chapel Common Cup. Brett Luginbill conducts this local chamber ensemble in its premiere concert. Program: Haydn's light, melodic Symphony no. 83 and Arthur Bird's harmonically rich Suite in D for 10 Winds. *8 p.m., Common Cup (lower level), 1511 Washtenaw. $15 (students, $10). 327–6914.*

Ypsilanti Civil War Holiday Ball: 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment Company E. An evening of period dances taught and prompted by Karen Dunnam, with live music by the **Golden Griffon Stringtet.** Period attire encouraged. *8 p.m., EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood. $30 at the door only. (313) 534–4678.*

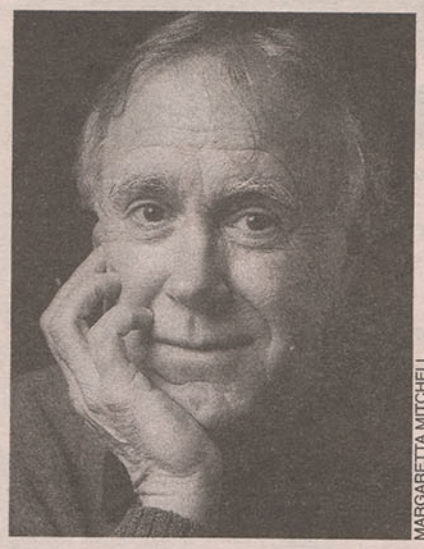
Umphrey's McGee: Live Nation. Popular veteran 6–piece progressive-rock jam band from Chicago known for its intricate, tricky arrangements and tight ensemble work. *Note:* The band is at Borders at 2 p.m. this afternoon for a free performance. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Guy Clark: The Ark. Veteran singer-songwriter from Texas whose songs have been recorded by everyone from Linda Ronstadt to Jerry Jeff Walker to Johnny Cash. He specializes in rough-edged, vividly detailed romantic ballads that have provoked comparisons to fiction writers like Larry McMurtry and Ambrose Bierce. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

poetry

Robert Hass

Bliss is what you glimpse



MARGARETTA MITCHELL

Robert Hass, former poet laureate of the United States, won the National Book Award a couple of weeks ago for his most recent collection, *Time and Materials*. Hass has never shied away from ambitious titles—a couple of his previous collections have been titled *Praise* and *Human Wishes*—and his poems reflect those ambitions, especially in Hass's continuing obsession with discovering the startling, exact image to capture a luminous moment in the natural world.

In "State of the Planet," one of the long, ambitious poems included in this book, the poet sees a schoolgirl with a "red satchel on her quite straight back" crossing a street while a windstorm blows around her. In a typical leap, he imagines a science book in her bag, or things she might have collected. And since family and work have brought him to our state regularly, we even get to feel a proprietary pride in a local image:

If she lived in Michigan or the Ukraine,
She'd find, washed up on the beach in a storm like this
Limestone fossils of Devonian coral. She could study
The faint white markings: she might have to lick the stone
To see them if the wind was drying the pale surface
Even as she held it, to bring back the picture of what life
Looked like forty million years ago: a honeycomb with mouths.

But as much as I love Petoskey stones, it would be wrong to leave you with only that image of Hass's *Time and Materials*.

As the big title suggests, this poet is also concerned with large philosophical questions. There is an exploration of mortality here, grounded in the poet's life and his own aging. And Hass continues exploring another of his preoccupations—the human tendency toward violence. "Bush's War" is a long poem where the current seemingly endless conflict is understood in the context of other conflicts and atrocities. In another poem he begins with something that sounds like a joke—"the fact that you get an adolescent/Of the human species to do almost anything"—but continues, "Which is why they are tromping down a road in Fallujah/In combat gear. . . /This morning and why a young woman is strapping/Twenty pounds of explosives to her mortal body in Jerusalem. . . ."

But all of that, too, gives an incomplete picture of this capacious collection of poems. There is humor here, gentle and loving. And always he returns to the possibility of our imagination in contact with the world. The last poem says: "This is the moment when bliss is what you glimpse/From the corner of your eye, as you drive past/Running errands."

Robert Hass reads from *Time and Materials* at Rackham Auditorium on Saturday, December 1.

—Keith Taylor

129th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *December 1 & 2.* Jerry Blackstone directs the choral union, and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra,** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Sarah Tynan,** mezzo **Renata Pokupic,** tenor **James Taylor,** and bass-baritone **Nathan Berg.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. Preceded at 7 by a talk by Blackstone (free to ticketholders) on the history of the *Messiah. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$32 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

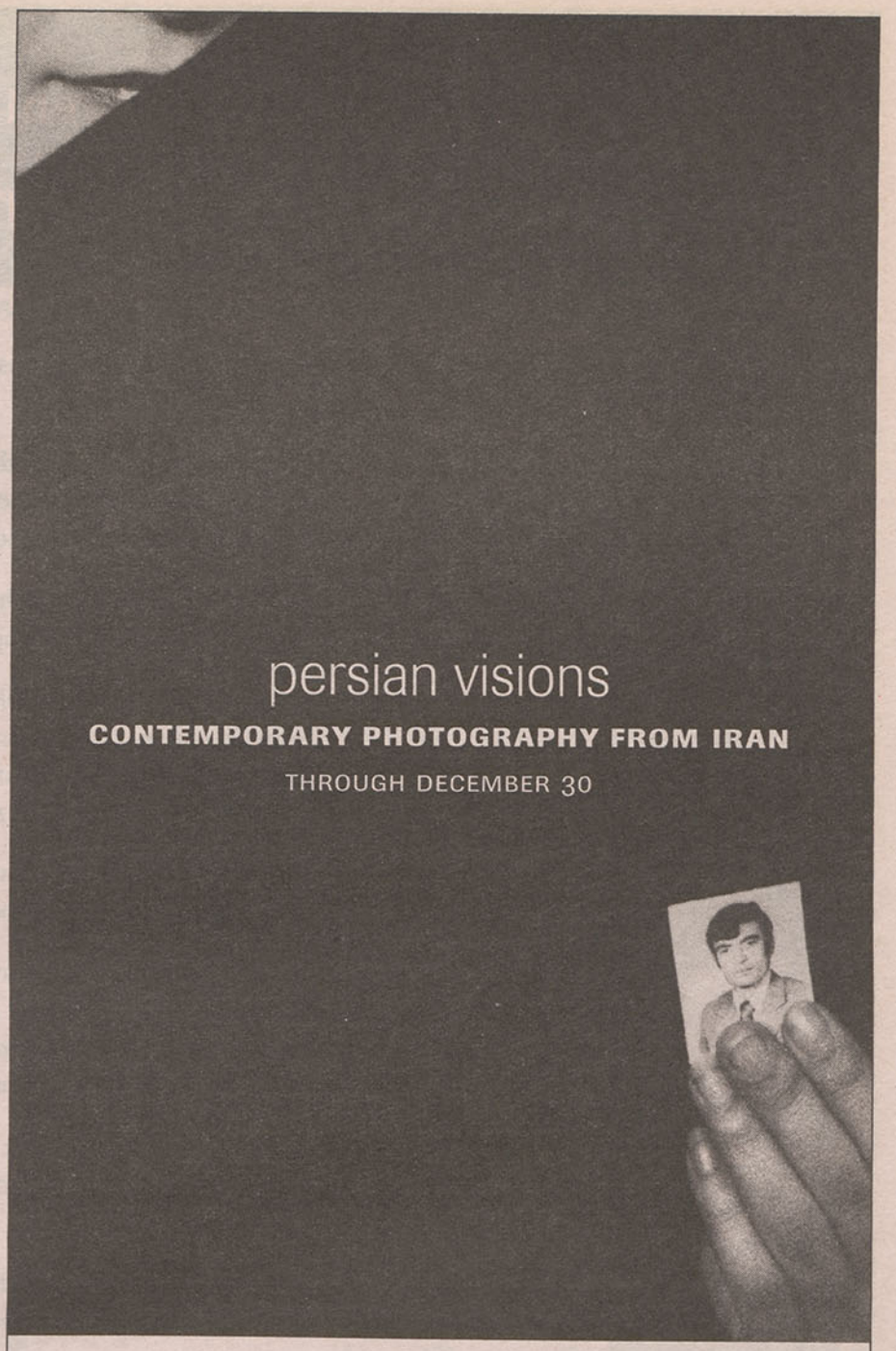
"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story": Dreamland Theater. *December 1 & 8.* This original marionette musical by puppeteer Naia Venturi and writer-composer Jess Rowland is a delightfully acidic yet sweetly sentimental comedy about love in the modern world. The action concerns the triad of an up-and-coming unabomber, a scheming has-been unabomber, and a pert yet disgruntled postal employee. Features a guest appearance by a startlingly lifelike version of Ted Koppel's hair. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. $5. Reservations requested. 657–2337.*

★**"Sunday Morning": U-M Basement Arts.** *November 29–December 1.* John Jarboe directs this play, an original Basement Arts adaptation of the poem by Wallace Stevens. *Evening time TBA, U-M Duderstadt Center Video and Performance Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–6800.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday, October 4–December 22, and Tuesdays December 4 & 18.* Guy Sanville directs Deborah Brevoort's romantic comedy about a lonely American poetry professor teaching at the University of Copenhagen who stops by a local pizzeria, where she meets a handsome Kurdish pizza chef with a flair for the unusual. *3 & 8 p.m., Garage Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) available in advance and at the door. 433–ROSE.*

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday through Sunday, November 1–December 23.* Carla Milarch directs Joseph Stein and Stephen Schwartz's musical about a French village whose inhabitants' passion for bread is surpassed only by their passion for gossip and arguing with their spouses. The arrival of a new baker with his beautiful and much younger wife sends the town into a frenzy of salivation over his delectable confections and of speculation about his marriage. The quirky, clever score includes "Meadowlark," a favorite of mezzo-sopranos made famous by Patti LuPone and Betty Buckley. Stars Andriana Pachella and John Seibert, with Charlie Sutherland, Emily Sutton-Smith, Tobin Hissong, Scott Longpre, Kevin Young, Laurel Hufano, Dave DeChristopher, Jenny Tocco, Sarah Davis, Brian Thibault, and Rusty Mewha. *3 & 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $30 (Thurs. & Sat. matinee), $35 (Fri. & Sun.), and $42 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over, $10 discounts available (except Sat. eve.) for students. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets & $10 tickets for age 16 & under available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"The Taming of the Shrew": U-M MUSKET. *November 30 & December 1 & 2.* Jennifer Chiles directs U-M students in Shakespeare's earthy comedy



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Persian Visions was developed by Hamid Severi for the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran, and Gary Hallman of the Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. This exhibition was made possible in part by the ILEX Foundation, University of Minnesota McKnight Arts and Humanities Endowment, and the Department of Art, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota. Its presentation in Ann Arbor is made possible in part by the University of Michigan Office of the Provost and the University of Michigan Health System.

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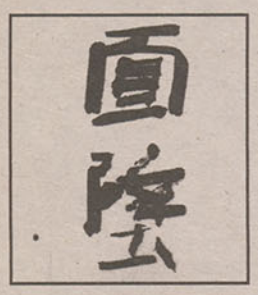
University of Michigan Health System

Shokoufeh Alidousti, *Self-Portrait 4* (detail), 2003

December 2007 Event *Highlights*
Ann Arbor District Library

All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.



Saturday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **1** — **Tasty Microwave Creations for Teens** • **Grades 6 - 12** Malletts Creek Branch

Saturday 2:00 - 4:00 pm — **1** — **Japanese Calligraphy: Traditional & Modern** • Lecture and demonstration by **Keiji Onodera**, master calligrapher and President of the Shodô Research Institute

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **2** — **Arab Family Cultural Celebration** • **All Ages** Learn, share, dance and enjoy traditional treats and crafts

Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **3** — **Concert & Discussion** • UM Assoc. Professor of Composition **Evan Chambers** discusses and presents selections from his new work ***The Old Burying Ground: A Song Cycle*** with writer **Keith Taylor** and pianist **Suzanne Camino**

Tuesday 6:00 - 8:30 pm — **4** — **Purple Rose Theatre** presents a concert reading and audience discussion of Don Zolidis' new play, ***White Buffalo***

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **4** — **Film & Discussion** of the award-winning animal rights documentary ***The Witness: A Tribe of Heart Documentary*** with discussion led by **Adena Kling** of VegMichigan Downtown Library 4th Floor Meeting Room

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **5** — **Learning to Learn: The Art and Practice of Communication and Understanding** with consultant **JoAnna DeCamp** Malletts Creek Branch

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **6** — **The Many Villages of Mexico** with travel expert **Stephanie Schneiderman** of Tia Stephanie Tours

Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **8** — **Classical Bells Holiday Concert** A delightful English handbell performance for all ages

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **11** — **Finding Funding for a College Education** with **Karen Downing**, Foundation and Grants Librarian at UM • A hands-on workshop demonstrating a variety of Web resources for parents of of high schoolers and those seeking funding for a college education • Malletts Creek Branch Training Center
Registration: 327.4560 • **Repeated:** Wed., Dec. **12**, 7 - 8:30 pm

Friday 6:00 - 8:30 pm — **14** — **Super Smash Brothers Regulation Throwdown** **Grades 6 - 12**

Saturday Noon - 5:00 pm — **15** — **AADL-GT Super Smash Double Dash Championships** **Grades 6 - 12**

Thursday 10:00 - 10:30 am — **27** — **Silly Stories** with **Laura Pershin Raynor** **Preschool - Grade 3** • Downtown Library Youth Story Corner

Thursday 2:00 - 4:00 pm — **27** — **No-Sew Felt Pouches** **Grades K - 5** • Malletts Creek Branch

Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm — **28** — **Happy New Year's Craft** **Preschool - Grade 3** • Pittsfield Branch

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm — **30** — **Chesstastic for All Ages** Pittsfield Branch

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about the battle of the sexes. The action centers on a wealthy merchant's efforts to marry off his prickly, hot-tempered elder daughter. With one of Shakespeare's most absorbingly suspenseful plots, *Shrew* also features amazing exploits, lots of high-spirited impersonations, sharp wits, and even sharper tongues. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. $5 (students, $3) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Tim Slagle: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *November 29 & 30 and December 1.* Chicago monologist known for his edgy, provocative social and political satire that's rooted in a fiercely libertarian point of view. A frequent face on MTV and Comedy Central, he also performs regularly at the annual Libertarian National Convention. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *December 1 & 15.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan Union locations TBA. Free. 973–2338.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "I'm Not There" (Todd Haynes, 2007). *December 1–6.* Visionary, poetic meditation on the myth and music of Bob Dylan refracted through 6 different actors, including an electrifying, shape-shifted Cate Blanchett in arguably her best performance. *Rolling Stone* calls the film "an unmissable movie event." $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Faces of a Fig Tree"** (Kaori Momoi, 2006). Whimsically absurdist story of a housewife whose new neighbor sets off a chain of events that lead her to rediscover herself. *Variety* says the film has "a Godardian glee." Followed by Q&A with Momoi, best known for her role in *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Preceded at 2 p.m. in the Michigan Theater by a talk by Momoi on her career. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 764–6307. Angel Hall Auditorium A, 7–9 p.m.

2 SUNDAY

★"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running. *Every Sunday.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★Falun Gong. *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sunday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *9 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761–6253 (morning ride), 994–5908 (afternoon ride).*

★Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling. *Every Sunday.* All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. *9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★Ultimate Pickup Game: H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sunday.* All invited to a laid-back pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Beginners welcome. *Midmorning time TBA, Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★Meditation: Tsogyelgar Dharma Center. *Every Sunday.* Sessions of silent sitting meditation (10 a.m.) and meditation in the Tantric tradition (11 a.m.). *10 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free, donations accepted. 663–3842.*

"9th Annual Gift-Fest": Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. Sale of works by local artists in a wide range of media, including clothing, ceramics, dolls, books, sculpture, and more, by 30 local artists. Refreshments. Also, raffle of artist-made Christmas ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free admission. 272–2901.*

★Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003*

folk-pop-alt-country

Over the Rhine

A Cincinnati duo on its own path

Over the Rhine, which takes its name from a tough but increasingly creative area near downtown Cincinnati, essentially consists of vocalist Karin Bergquist and pianist and guitarist Linford Detweiler. They write almost all their own material, both separately and together. The two take on other musicians as needed, but, especially in their recent music, they have a knack for keeping the duo front and center—they're not writing for a band, but rather using the other players to provide subtle backgrounds. At the center of Over the Rhine's sound is Bergquist's voice, a slender but visionary thing lately enriched by an engagement with classic jazz and blues. "Karin and I write songs that allow her voice to bloom," Detweiler says.

Their music is personal, reflecting several distinct concerns that make it hard to classify. All of it is subtle, dreamy, and low key. The closest comparison would be to Canada's Cowboy Junkies, with whom Over the Rhine toured for a while as "honorary members." "Folk-pop" and "alt-country" have been proposed as labels, and each is fine as far as it goes, but neither captures the role of Detweiler's piano, which can sketch sweeping rock landscapes or settle into cocktail-lounge shadows by turns. Their complex, rather literary lyric style is their own, often centered lately on quirky take-offs on romantic songs of the jazzy sort, songs about war and the violence that has infused itself into modern life, and spiritual essays—Over the Rhine has had a glancing relationship with the Christian music scene but has tended toward an unaffiliated desire for a better world and toward the fellowship found in hoping for it.

Detweiler and Bergquist are quite prolific; including a few solo albums by Detweiler, they've released twenty albums since their beginnings in the New Wave scene of the late 1980s. Two new Over the Rhine albums have appeared within the last year, and music from them should be prominent in their current show. One album, *Snow Angels,* is a Christmas release of a sort that will go straight to the heart of some of us with its very first lines: "Strings of lights above the bed/Curtains drawn and a glass of red/All I ever get for Christmas is blue." The album includes an affectionate piano tribute to cartoonist Charles Schulz and doesn't differ much in theme from the other new album, *The Trumpet Child,* except that it's generally set in winter. *The Trumpet Child* has its own tribute, a very funny one to Tom Waits.

As often happens with acts that succeed in creating multifaceted little worlds of their own, Over the Rhine has a devoted following that makes Internet notes on every show. There was a contingent that thought nothing of the five-hour drive from Cincinnati to see a twenty-minute Over the Rhine set at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival last winter. Initiates can join these devotees of persistent optimism when Over the Rhine comes to the Ark on Sunday, December 2.

—James M. Manheim

Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sunday.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today: Kathy Laritz discusses **"Fear and Aversion."** Also this month, Kathleen Ivanoff discusses **"Pursuit of Happiness"** (December 9), and Gehlek discusses **"A Generous Heart"** (December 16), **"The True Beauty of Life"** (December 23), and **"Intelligent Faith"** (December 30). *10–11 a.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★**"Uncouth Nation: Why Europe Dislikes America": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Retired local environmental scientist Donald Fowler discusses A. S. Markovits's book. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

★**First Presbyterian Church Adult Education.** *Every Sunday through December 16.* Today: U-M LS&A deputy assistant dean Robert Wallin presents **"Light in the Darkness: The Birth of Jesus,"** a talk that explores the imagery of light in the Gospel birth narrative and in Christmas carols and poems. Also this month, U-M English professor Ralph Williams explores the mysteries central to the season of Advent in a talk titled **"There Lives the Dearest Freshness, Deep Down Things"** (December 9), and UMS Choral Union conductor Jerry Blackstone discusses **"Handel's *Messiah*"** (December 16). All invited. *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sunday through December 23.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 913–9622.*

★**"Holiday Gifts": Nature's Expressions.** Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994–3048.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults

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Annual Boar's Head Festival

Whitnie Crown Wolverton, soprano and classical guitarist, Jeremiah Benham perform "A Musicall Banquet"

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Ann Arbor

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December 2007 Events

Theatre: **30th Annual Boar's Head Festival**

Friday, November 30 • 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 1 • 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 2 • 4 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
Tickets: $8-15

Students, faculty and staff come together to enact medieval Christmas traditions and the story of Christ's birth in this moving musical spectacle directed by Dr. Laura C. Bird with musical direction by Brian Altevogt. Beginning in 1978 through the vision of three Concordia professors – Paul Foelber, John Sturmfels and Quentin Marino – the Boar's Head Festival has become a treasured memory for many. It remains a vibrant and living tradition as it continues to profess the wonder of the Christmas miracle.

Music: **Concordia Jazz Collective ✦**

Friday, December 7 • 7 p.m.
Black Box Theatre

Concordia University's Jazz Band, under the direction of Sean Dobbins, will perform with special guests Tad Weed and Kurt Krahnke.

Music: **"A Musicall Banquet: A Collection of Renaissance Lute Songs Arranged for Guitar and Voice" ✦**

Sunday, December 9 • 4 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Chicago-based performing duo, Whitnie Crown Wolverton, soprano (formerly of Ann Arbor's Vox Early Music Ensemble) and classical guitarist, Jeremiah Benham will perform "A Musicall Banquet: A Collection of Renaissance Lute Songs Arranged for Guitar and Voice". The program features English Ayres by John Dowland as well as selections by Pierre Guedron, Domenico Maria Melli, and Giulio Caccini from Robert Dowland's collection of lute songs "A Musicall Banquet" of 1610. Special musical guests include Debra Longergan on viola da gamba and Dr. Stefano Mengozzi on lute.

✦ *Denotes events that are free.*

interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles discuss **"Women in the Bible."** Also this month: First Presbyterian member Dee Valvanis leads a group discussion of **"Separation of Church and State"** (December 9), a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and silent auction of donated items to benefit the **Family to Family Program** (December 16), group discussions of **"Christmas Traditions"** (December 23), and **"2008 New Year's Resolutions"** (December 30). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**25th Silver Anniversary Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 1 Saturday. Also today: a **Christmas concert** (3 p.m.), with a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music, including Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on "Greensleeves," and performances by organist Craig Jorgensen, a women's vocal ensemble, the First Presbyterian Handbell Choir, and soprano Melinda Cameron, who closes the program with Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him." 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★**"Taste of Hanukkah": Whole Foods Market.** A chance to sample a range of holiday treats. Q&A with staff members. *Noon–4 p.m., Whole Foods Market, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period Christmas decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, including a barnyard with live animals. Gift shop. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). Free, but $5 donations appreciated. 994–2928.*

★**20th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 1 Saturday. Today's highlights include a holiday concert by the **Chelsea Chamber Players** (3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St.), **"Holiday Spectacular on Ice"** with donation of a canned good (Arctic Coliseum, 2–3:30 p.m.), **"Skate with Santa"** for $5 (3:30–4:45 p.m., Arctic Coliseum), and the **"Holiday Festival of Lessons and Carols"** (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle). Noon–7 p.m.

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

Michigan Marching Band: U-M School of Music. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. Also, performances by guest high school musicians. *12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets $10 (kids age 11 & under, $3) in advance at mmb.music.umich.edu and in advance at Revelli Hall, 350 E. Hoover, and at the door. 764–0594.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sunday & Thursday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 764–3482.*

"Champagne Brunch": Eve Restaurant. Village Corner wine expert Dick Scheer hosts a champagne tasting with brunch. *1 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $57.50. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**Richard Adler: Barnes & Noble.** This local writer is on hand to discuss and sign copies of his books, including ***Jewish Ann Arbor*** and ***Baseball at the University of Michigan.*** *1–4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Schoolhouse Rock Live!": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 1 Saturday. 1 p.m.

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Saline Fiddlers ReStrung presents its Hometown Holiday benefit concert, with guest performer Lonesome Country, at Saline High School Dec. 2.

★**"Locating Living Persons": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Oakland County genealogist Jim Jackson, recipient of the Michigan Genealogical Council Lucy Kellogg Award. Followed by **"Remembering and Celebrating Our Ancestors and Heritage,"** a talk by club member Jerilynn Lynn about the history of the settlement of Isabella, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties by her African American ancestors. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

Hometown Holiday Benefit Concert: Saline Fiddlers ReStrung. This local touring teen fiddle ensemble plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. This year's guest headliner is **Lonesome Country,** a hard-driving traditional bluegrass Michigan quintet led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. Also, performances by the Saline High School Choir and the Saline Middle School Fiddle Club. *2 p.m., New Saline High School Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Dr., Saline. Tickets $10 available in advance and at the door. 429–7210.*

Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and other local peace and justice organizations selling fairly traded goods and/or items that promote peace and justice. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *2–6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Seasonal Tales with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

★**"Arab Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library.** This family-oriented program is highlighted by a performance of traditional Arabic music by the renowned oud player **Laith Alattar.** Also, a geometric paper rug craft activity and a date cookie snack. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Taming of the Shrew": U-M MUSKET. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

129th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"A Celebration of Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Exploring 'Who Is Jewish?'": Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs a program that ranges from Miriam Walowit's Yiddish translations of Gilbert & Sullivan and other Yiddish oddities to songs by Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, and other Jewish songwriters. Refreshments. *3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 donation. 971–0990.*

★**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Joseph Gramley directs this music-student ensemble in Steve Reich's *Six Marimbas,* Charles Griffin's *The Persistence of Past Chemistries,* U-M percussion professor Michael Udow's *Rock Etude* no. 7, and works by John Cage and Lou Harrison. *3 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Hanukkah & Gift Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. Show and sale of menorahs, candles, dreidels, gift wrap, gelt, cards, jewelry, decorations, paper goods, art, small gifts, and craft items for children, and a variety of Judaica. *3:30–7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.*

"The Tale of St. George and the _____": Dreamland Theater. *Every Sunday.* A mad lib version of the traditional tale about the dragon-slaying saint. The audience chooses the words to fit into the mad lib spaces prior to the show, resulting in a wonderfully skewed and silly result. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids 5 and under, free). 657–2337.*

Gabriel Bolkosky: Kerrytown Concert House. This local violinist, the director of the Phoenix Ensemble, has been praised for having "the serenity of a master without a hint of coldness." He is joined by local pianist Michele Cooker to perform works by Schumann, Brahms, Bloch, Kreisler, and Debussy. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

★**"Pottery Videos Screening": Yourist Pottery.** Today: ***The Leach Pottery,*** a silent homemade B&W 1952 film that explores the studio and work of Bernard Leach, the English potter regarded as the "father of modern pottery," who almost singlehandedly rescued the art from oblivion in the early 20th century. Also, ***Michael Cardew,*** a 1983 video about this pioneering British functional potter (1901–1983) noted for his novel combination of traditional forms with contemporary decorative images. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

30th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 1 Saturday. 4 p.m.

11th Annual Dinner & Jazz Fund-Raiser: African American Cultural & Historical Museum. Buffet dinner with live jazz by the **Ron Brooks Quartet,** an ensemble led by veteran local bassist (and former Bird of Paradise owner) Brooks and featuring Betty Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Cash bar. *5–8 p.m., Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard. Ticket price & availability TBA. 761–1717.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

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★"Bad Girls of the Bible": Calvary Presbyterian Church. *Every other Sunday, September 9–December 2.* All women invited to join this weekly group discussion. Refreshments. Child care available. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood (north off Packard east of Platt). Free. 971–3121.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

"Pops Goes Wild": U-M Michigan Pops Orchestra. Alex Sutton conducts this 100-member ensemble, the only student-run orchestra on campus, in a program that includes musical selections from *The Lion King, Jurassic Park, Tarzan, King Kong*, Saint-Saens's *The Carnival of the Animals*, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 (students, $5); in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

★Dady Mehta & Friends: Friends of Chamber Music at Pease. EMU piano professor Mehta is joined by **Fuxi,** a brand-new piano trio that includes local pianist Zhihua Tang and 2 DSO members, violinist Hai Xin Wu and cellist Robert deMaine. Program: Bach's Sonata in C Minor for Violin and Piano and excerpts from his *The Art of the Fugue* for piano 4 hands, Dvorak's Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello in E Minor and selections from his *Slavonic Dances* for piano 4 hands, and Martinu's Duo no. 1 for Violin and Cello. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Over the Rhine: The Ark. *See review, p. 73.* Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by the acclaimed Cincinnati husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler. They're known for their enchantingly spare arrangements and their reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. "These 11 songs are swanky, jazzy, and generally calibrated to conjure a pre–1950s late night, cocktail-swilling feel, without sacrificing nuances of lyric," says *No Depression* in its review of the band's new CD, *The Trumpet Child.* "It's a paean to enduring American songcraft." *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday through December 16.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 2) & Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 9 & 16). $3. 763–6984.*

★EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. *8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

FILMS

U-M Center for Middle East and North African Studies. "Kiarostami Films." Double bill of films by the internationally renowned Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami. ***Infidels*** is a documentary of the northern Iranian Godar people, who are Gypsies of Indian descent. ***The Wind Will Carry Us*** is an unassuming, deceptively simple film about the arrival in a Kurdish village of a group of apparent treasure hunters from Tehran that transforms into an examination of life and death. FREE. 764–0350. Rackham Amphitheater, 915 E. Washington. 4 p.m. **Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner."** *Every Sunday.* Dinner (salad, entree, & dessert), followed by screening of a movie. Menu items range from $5 to $30. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Tonight: ***I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*** (Dennis Dugan, 2007). Comedy about a pair of New York firefighters who pretend to be gay so they can get domestic partner benefits. Adam Sandler, Kevin James. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "I'm Not There"** (Todd Haynes, 2007). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

3 MONDAY

★"Monday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Monday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 or 55–65 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *Note:* Today is the last Monday club until January. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★25th Silver Anniversary Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Saturday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Monday through December 10.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered through the week of December 10 at the Malletts Creek (Tuesdays, 10–11 a.m., & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Northeast (Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Monday except December 31.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** (11 a.m.), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and conclude at 1 p.m. with a speaker or other special event. Today: professional sculptor Barbara Carson presents a hands-on introduction on **"How to Work with Clay."** Also this month: a performance by local singer-songwriter **Laurie White** (December 10), and a screening of ***Hester Street*** (December 17), Joan Silver's 1975 film adaptation of Abraham Cahan's acclaimed 1896 novella *Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto*. Also, readings of their work by members of the **JCC Writing Group** (December 24). Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *December 3, 10, & 17.* Weekly lunchtime talks by new U-M men's basketball coach **John Beilein,** who is joined by other U-M coaches, including men's wrestling coach Joe McFarland (December 3), women's gymnastics coach Bev Plocki (December 10), and a speaker TBA (December 17). *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $14 (members, $9; seniors, $8.50). 663–7420.*

★"Food for Life": Whole Foods Market. *December 3, 10, & 17.* Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit the Cancer Project, shows how to prepare foods thought to help prevent cancer. Today: **"Replacing Meat."** Also this month: **"Planning Healthy Meals"** (December 10) and **"Antioxidants and Phytochemicals"** (December 17). *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Monday & Friday through December 21.* All seniors invited to play bridge. No partner required. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Monday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Writing Groups: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Monday & Friday through December 21.* All seniors invited to read and discuss the poetry, essays, reminiscences, and fiction they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"The Forensic Self: Experts and Forgers since the Renaissance": U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program. Talk by Northwestern University history professor Ken Adler. *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 647–3766.*

★Avis Farms Toastmasters. *December 3 & 17.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *5:15–7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room C, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $20 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $27). For information, call Adrienne at 332–1200.*

Family Havdalah Pajama Dance Party: Jewish Community Center. Families with preschoolers through 2nd-graders invited for a pizza dinner and a program of creative movement and dance led by Julie Gayer, creative director of Avodah Dance Ensemble, a modern dance company rooted in Jewish tradition. *6 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 per family. 971–0990.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Monday through December 17.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday through December 17.* Members give speeches, receive helpful feedback from more experienced members, and learn through observing and practicing. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts Bldg., room 159, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. 972–4619.*

★**"Depression Resolution": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Mark Perlmutter. *7 p.m., Arbor Farms Market, 2103 E. Stadium. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Palestinian Public Opinion and Domestic Politics and the Future of the Peace Process": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research director **Khalil Shikaki.** *7–9 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0350.*

★**"Chinese Documentary Film": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Screening of ***Bumming in Beijing,*** Wu Wenguang's nuanced 1990 account of the wanderings of 5 young artists who migrated to Beijing from the provinces during the heady years of the late 80s leading up to and including the tragic confrontation in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Followed by a discussion and Q&A with Wu and Berenice Reynaud, a California Institute of the Arts film theory, history, and criticism professor who also presents a talk earlier today on **"Floating, (In)visible, Off-Screen: Voices and Bodies in the New Chinese Documentary"** (noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University). Tonight's screening is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a reception. Part of the U-M LS&A China Theme Semester. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"The Old Burying Ground: A Song Cycle": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M music professor **Evan Chambers** discusses and presents selections from his song cycle that receives its orchestral premiere at Hill Auditorium on December 10 (see listing). The songs, which combine folk and classical music, are interspersed with poetry and other vocal recitations. Chambers is joined tonight by pianist Suzanne Camino and local poet Keith Taylor. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Monday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). 474–1155.*

★**"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House.** Students of U-M piano professor Christopher Harding perform a program of chamber music TBA. Part of an occasional Monday night concert series. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Michelle Shocked: The Ark. Iconoclastic Texas-born singer-songwriter whose music is an artful, passionate blend of several influences, including roots-rock, folk, country, and even reggae. Her new CD, the gospel-oriented *ToHeavenURide,* is a live recording made at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival that features her punk feminist roots-music takes on songs by everyone from Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Billie Holiday to the Staples Singers and the Band, along with "Quality of Mercy" (a song first issued on the *Dead Man Walking* soundtrack) and other originals. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday except December 24.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

MTF. "I'm Not There" (Todd Haynes, 2007). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

4 TUESDAY

"Spiritual Inquiry": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All

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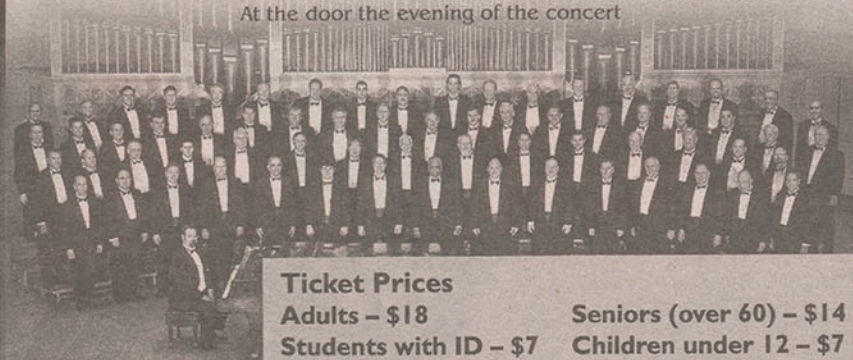

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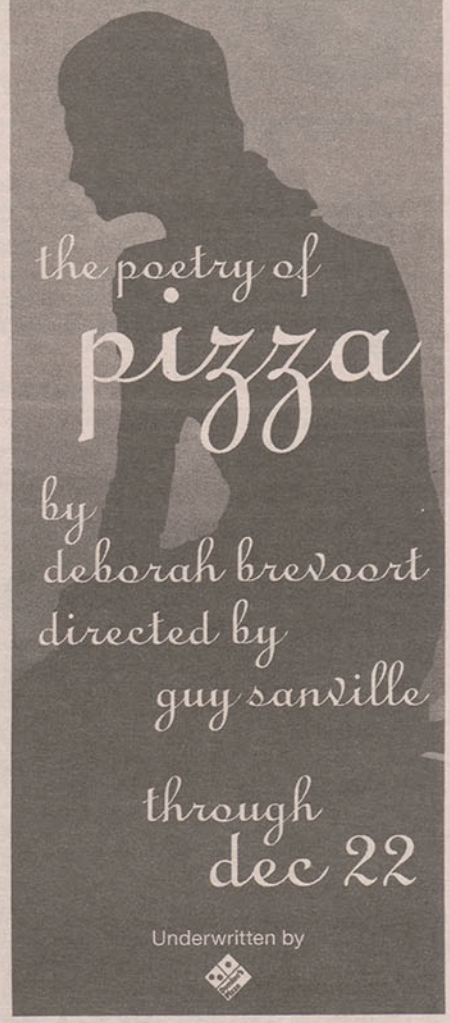

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4 TUESDAY *continued*

invited to join a group discussion. The program begins with a short presentation and occasionally also includes meditation, chanting, or a musical presentation. *10 a.m.–noon, Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tuesday through December 11.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered (through the week of December 10) at the Malletts Creek (Wednesdays, 10–10:30 a.m.), Northeast (Thursdays, 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thursdays, 7–7:30 p.m., & Fridays, 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different locations) except December 25.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *10:30 a.m. (Tues.), Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower), & 12:45 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* The program includes **mah-jongg** (noon–2:30 p.m.) and a **drop-in hobby time** (1–3 p.m.), for which you're invited to bring in your own project to work on and share. Coffee & noshes. *Noon–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"What Happened to the New Historicism?": U-M Institute for the Humanities Brown Bag Lecture.** Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Talk by U-M English professor Steven Mullaney. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**"The Evolution of China's Africa Policies": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Talk by University of St. Andrews (Scotland) international relations professor Ian Taylor. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Ann Arbor Front Runners.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday except Dec. 25 & 31.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Fuller Park pool parking lot. Free. 741–1763.*

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 28th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.), U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass ($5 per day) required. 663–9740.*

★**"White Buffalo": Ann Arbor District Library.** Purple Rose Theatre artistic director Guy Sanville directs a reading of Texas playwright Don Zolidis's award-winning drama, which Purple Rose is considering for a future production, about a white buffalo born on a small farm in southern Wisconsin. The owner thinks nothing of it until she learns that the birth is the fulfillment of an ancient Sioux prophecy of peace on earth, and her little farm is quickly overwhelmed with religious pilgrims, bringing her into contact with a culture and faith wholly unfamiliar to her. Followed by a Q&A with the audience. The cast of Purple Rose regulars includes Sarah Benoit, John Lepard, Qarie Marshall, Michelle Mountain, Jim Porterfield, and Charlyn Swartout. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**Common Thread.** *December 4 & 18.* All invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7–9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Holiday Party": Mothers and More.** All moms invited to join other local moms for a white elephant gift exchange (bring one to swap). Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Gladwin Meeting Place, 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 327–4901.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Historical and traditional English

Cellist Sarah Cleveland plays *Don Quixote*

Who's your hero?

Some kids want to grow up to be president. Not Sarah Cleveland.

"I always knew I wanted to be an orchestral player," says the principal cellist of the Ann Arbor Symphony. Cleveland grew up in Livonia in the 1960s. "It was a really good place to grow up," she says. "They had a really good music education system." She came to Ann Arbor to attend the U-M School of Music in 1973 and started her professional career the same year by joining the cello section of the Toledo Symphony.

Cleveland stayed with the Toledo for twenty years, thirteen of them as its principal cellist. At the same time, she also served as the Flint Symphony's principal as well and performed with the Detroit Symphony and the Michigan Opera Theater. I saw her many, many times back in the 1990s—one week in Ann Arbor, the next week in Flint, the week after that in Detroit. And Cleveland was always alert, always on, always leading her section with strength, sensitivity, and consummate musicality.

These days, though, Cleveland's cut back on her steady orchestral gigs. Aside from her post in Ann Arbor, she's been mostly freelancing and playing chamber music. "I've always put my family ahead of my career," explains Cleveland. "There was really good music making up in Flint, but those all-day Saturday rehearsals were hurting my family, so I gave it up."

A cello player in an orchestra doesn't get many solos—a phrase in Mahler here, a line in Stravinsky there. But at the Michigan Theater on Saturday, December 8, Cleveland will get her chance to shine in the biggest, longest cello solo in the standard repertoire: *Don Quixote,* Richard Strauss's musical translation of Cervantes's masterpiece, with the principal cello taking the leading role as the Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance.

"I've never played *Don Quixote* before," says Cleveland. "I had to learn parts of it for auditions, but I never had to learn this whole thing before. I've been working on it since May. I spent quite a while learning the notes and deciding how it should be played. *Then* I listened to recordings to see how I matched up. Thankfully, I was right in there."

So she's Don Quixote? "Yes, that's me," says Cleveland, "or, anyway, that's the plan.

I'll be sitting up there front and center. The way I see it, the whole thing's really a giant orchestral solo with a huge range of emotion from the sublime to the sentimental to the dramatic.

"It's technically difficult, but difficult in a way that appeals to me—not so many double and triple stops but more all over the instrument, using the whole range of the instrument. It can get dicey, all that diving back and forth, but that's what makes it exciting, too."

Exciting? One might even say heroic.

—James Leonard

dancing. Today: callers Shirley Harden and Dan Blim with music by the trio of Brad Battey, David West, and Donna Baird. Also this month: callers Bronwen Gates and Arlene Kindel with music by Childgrove (December 11), and callers Ray Bantle and Greg Meisner with music by the ensemble of David West, Donna Baird, Anne Ormand, and Susie Lorand (December 18). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $6 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★**Tom Grace: Liberty Borders.** This local thriller novelist discusses ***The Secret Cardinal,*** the 5th book in his Nolan Kilkenny series, in which the former navy SEAL is given a secret assignment by a dying Pope Leo XIV. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Night at the Museum": U-M Aquarium Society.** All invited to join club members for a behind-the-scenes tour of the U-M Museum of Zoology's world-class collection of preserved fishes and a chance to learn how fish biologists do their work. *7 p.m., 2009 U-M Ruthven Natural History Museum (enter at the loading dock), 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 274–1722.*

"The Miracle of Oil! A Celebration of New Harvest Olive Oil and the First Night of Hanukkah": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner featuring traditional Hanukkah fare and using Willow Creek Ranch (Paso Robles, California) Pasolivo olio nuovo, a gourmet olive oil known for its grassy flavors and peppery finish. Also, representatives from Treana Winery, Willow Creek Ranch's next-door neighbor, discuss and offer samples of their wines. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"The Witness: A Tribe of Heart Documentary": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of Jenny Stein's award-winning 2000 documentary about a Brooklyn contractor with a lifelong aversion to animals who became an impassioned animal advocate after the love of a kitten opened his heart. Followed by a discussion led by VegMichigan representative Adena Kling. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group: Arborland Borders.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All women invited to join

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the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent slides and prints, including those on the club's current topic, "Black/White." *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***La Velocidad de la Luz,*** Spanish novelist Javier Cercas's novel about a young Spanish novelist who takes a job as a visiting writer at the University of Illinois, where he befriends a colleague who is a troubled Vietnam vet. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Collegium Musicum: EMU Music Department.** Scott Elsholz directs this student early-music ensemble in Buxtehude's Cantatas nos. 15 and 51, along with works by other composers. *7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by **Blair,** a Detroit singer-songwriter and poet who was a member of the 2002 national champion Detroit Slam Team. His poetry focuses on what *Metro Times* writer Melissa Giannini calls "the hope that rises from the ashes of despair." Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. *8 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $5 (students with ID & members, $3). For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**University Choir: U-M School of Music.** Paul Rardin and Carole Ott conduct this music-student ensemble in Bach's cantata "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," Robert Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel*, and psalm settings by Ulysses Kay, Harold Owen, and Gerald Cohen. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Thad Beckman: The Ark. Texas singer-songwriter known for his finely crafted story songs about life in contemporary America that have provoked comparisons to Woody Guthrie and Steve Earle. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. Note new location. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

Hillel. "Israeli Movie Night." Film TBA. Followed by discussion. Snacks. FREE. 769–0500. Hillel, 1429 Hill. 8 p.m. **MTF. "I'm Not There"** (Todd Haynes, 2007). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

5 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/ Busch's Valu Land. *December 5–9.* Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Nonperishable food donations requested for Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. *7 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 5–8) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 9), Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free admission. 761–2796.*

★**Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908.*

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *December 5 & 19.* Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Ezra Jack Keats's ***The Snowy Day*** and Jean Stoick's ***First Snow in the Woods.*** Also this month: Jan Brett's ***The Three Snow Bears*** and Piers Harper's ***The Snow Bear*** (December 12), Dr. Seuss's ***How the Grinch Stole Christmas*** (December 19), and Mark Moulton's ***The Annual Snowman's Ball*** and Caralyn Buehner's ***Snowmen at Night*** (December 26). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Wednesday through December 19.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11:30 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Toastmasters General.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *Noon–1 p.m., F206 Veterans Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd. Free to visitors. 769–7100, ext. 55678.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wednesday through December 19.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Matinee Musicale: Jewish Community Center. All seniors invited to a recital by an AASO ensemble led by cellist (and AASO artistic director) **Arie Lipsky,** with violinists **Aaron Berofsky** and **Kathryn Votapek.** Program TBA. *1:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $7 at the door only. 971–0990.*

★**"When the Virgin Is Your Queen: Reflections on Gender and Nationalism in Poland": U-M Center for European Studies.** Talk by University of Warsaw American studies professor **Agnieszka Graff,** author of the controversial *World Without Women* and a leading figure of the Polish women's movement. Also, on December 6, Graff is joined by history professor Joshua Cole, U-M sociology grad student Michelle Kelso, and Albion College anthropology and sociology professor Hadley Renkin for a panel discussion, moderated by U-M history professor Brian Porter-Szucs, on **"New Lines of Tolerance and Intolerance in Europe"** (4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University). *3–4:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State St. Free. 647–2743.*

★**Scrabble: The Firefly Club.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Free. 665–9090.*

★**"Representations of Africa in U.S. Museums: The Role of the New Museum for African Art in New York": U-M Museum Studies.** Talk by Museum for African Art curator Enid Schildkrout. *5:30 p.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State St. Free. 936–6678.*

★**Meditation.** *Every Wednesday.* All meditators invited to join a 45-minute session. *6 & 7 p.m., 4125 Jackson. Free; donations accepted. 994–1026, 663–1675.*

"7th Annual Stars Onstage: A Benefit Concert for Children": Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts Department. Performances by the WCC Jazz Orchestra and dance students from WCC and Spotlight Studio LLC in Pinckney. Proceeds benefit the children in U-M Mott Hospital. *6 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Donation or a new, unwrapped gift. 677–5090.*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–8 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: $30 semiannually. 439–4457.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine (off Bunton south of Textile Rd.), Ypsilanti Twp. Free. 481–1044.*

★**"Get the Energy to Enjoy Your Life!": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Learning to Learn: The Art and Practice of Communication and Understanding": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local organizational learning consultant and coach JoAnna DeCamp leads an interactive program showing participants how improving communication and listening skills can enhance learning. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Best of the Local Slipstream": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Readings by **Fritz Swanson, Cara Spindler, Peter Markus,** and **David Erik Nelson,** all local writers of "slipstream," a brand of fiction that cultivates strangeness. Tonight's readings include fictions of haunted dogs, Paul Bunyan love stories, monster wives, singing fish, and an account of the invention of the English. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *December 5 & 12.* Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: fiction readings by Ann Arbor Open School writer-in-residence **Scott Beal** and local teen writers in his **Neutral Zone Short Story Workshop.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Mary Ann Winkowski: Liberty Borders.** This Ohio paranormal investigator discusses ***When Ghosts Speak: Understanding the World of Earthbound Spirits,*** her account of growing up with the ability to see ghosts that includes tips on how to deal with earthbound spirits. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Jazz Combo: EMU Music Department.** Mark Pappas directs this music-student ensemble in a program of jazz standards and contemporary works. *7 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**Jewish Meditation: Temple Beth Emeth.** *December 5, 12, & 19.* All invited for meditation and a group discussion centered on Tzava'at Harivash, the writings of rabbi Baal Shem Tov. *7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★**"A Gentle Path with the Goddess Tara": Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** Senior students lead a study session on the goddess Tara. *7:30 p.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. 663–3842.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 214–2755.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. *7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

★**Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Rodney Dorsey leads this music-student ensemble in Saint-Saens's *Orient et Occident*, Jonathan Newman's *As the Scent of Spring Rain*, Dana Wilson's *Day Dreams*, Gordon Jacob's *Old Wine in New Bottles*, and Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music.** Grad student conductors direct this music-student choir in Pergolesi's Magnificat, Bach's Cantata no. 52, and 2 Handel coronation anthems, *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened* and *Zadok the Priest. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

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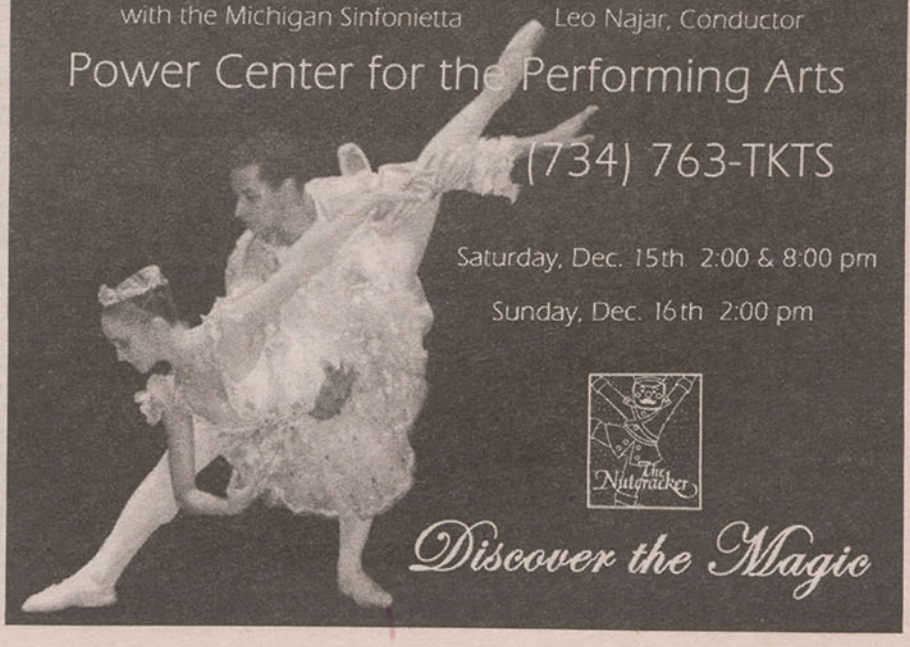
Saturday, Dec. 15th 2:00 & 8:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 16th 2:00 pm



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5 WEDNESDAY *continued*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wednesday.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wednesday.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wednesday through December 19.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by guided practice (6:30 p.m.) and intermediate (7 p.m.), beginner Lindy hop (8 p.m.), and beginner East Coast (9 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

FILMS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ Star Bright Cinema. "The Star of Bethlehem" (Stephen Vidano, 2007). Documentary about the Nativity star. FREE. 665–6149. Bethlehem Church (423 S. Fourth Ave.), 7 p.m. **MTF. "I'm Not There"** (Todd Haynes, 2007). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Center for Middle East and North African Studies. "Kabul Transit"** (David Edwards, Maliha Zulfacar, & Gregory Whitmore, 2006). Spare, poised, deeply lyrical documentary about daily life in war-scarred Kabul. FREE. 764–0350. Angell Hall Auditorium A. 8 p.m.

6 THURSDAY

★**"Even Thursdays": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce.** *December 6 & 20.* All invited to discuss local issues with Chamber of Commerce CEO Jesse Bernstein. *7–9 a.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. Free. Pay for whatever food or beverage you buy. 214–0104.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group hosted by Heather Dombey. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. Today: Yiddish translator Aliza Shevrin discusses 3 forthcoming translations of Sholem Aleichem. Also this month: local Jewish history archivist Carol Finerman discusses **"Local Jewish History"** (December 13), Chabad House rabbi Aharon Goldstein discusses **"The Destruction and Rebuilding of Jewish Temples in Jerusalem"** (December 20), and a screening of a film TBA (December 27). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for non-seniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Children's Storytime: Liberty Borders.** *Every Thursday.* Borders staff reads stories for kids. *11 a.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"From the 'Beit Midrash' to the Kaffeehaus: Hebrew Modernist Fiction and the Urban Experience": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by U-M Hebrew Literature professor Shachar Pinsker. *Noon, Frankel Center, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★**"Exceptional Sex: How Drugs Have Come to Mediate Sex in Gay Discourse, and the Implication of HIV Prevention": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by University of Sydney gender and cultural studies professor Kane Race. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall. 204 S. State St. Free. 764–9537.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *12:30–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

"Holiday Gift Fair": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff display, discuss, and offer taste samples of some favorite food gifts, from classics to curiosities. *4–7 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**"Imaging the Brain to Study the Mind": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by U-M psychology and neuroscience professor John Jonides. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998–6251.*

The U-M theatre department presents *J. B.*, Archibald MacLeish's modern version of the story of Job, at the Power Center Dec. 6–9.

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dish to share for a potluck. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. *6–8:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. $5 (children, $3). 741–0895.*

★**"The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith": Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.** *December 6, 13, & 20.* All invited to join a discussion of liberal biblical scholar Marcus Borg's book about an emerging new paradigm of Christian faith. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Rd. Free. 846–3578.*

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**"A Field Guide to Household Bugs: It's a Jungle in Here": Nicola's Books.** Graphic artist **Joshua Abarbanel** and documentary filmmaker and journalist **Jeff Swimmer,** a team one critic calls "the Lewis and Clark of the bedroom," read from their tongue-in-cheek field guide to the "bloodsuckers, web-weavers, and pillow-jumpers that live invisibly in our homes." Not for the squeamish. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a warm, friendly environment. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Education Bldg., room 182, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. Dues: $35 semiannually (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $20). 678–2256.*

★**"Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran": U-M Museum of Art.** *December 6, 9, 13, & 16.* Docent-guided tour of this exhibit. *7 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 13) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 9 & 16), UMMA OffSite, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"The Many Villages of Mexico": Ann Arbor District Library.** Slide-illustrated talk by Tia Stephanie Tours owner and cultural tour guide Stephanie Schneiderman, a Havana native who grew up in Mexico. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Annual Show And Tell: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Bring red and green (or otherwise holiday-themed) minerals for a group show and tell. Also, bring mystery rocks for Bill Barr, the group's resident mineralogist, to identify. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434–8517.*

★**RC Singers: U-M Residential College.** John Trotter directs this student choir in a varied program of classical choral music. *7 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** Joshua Major directs U-M music students in arias and scenes from Bellini's *I Puritani* and Donizetti's *Don Pasquale. 7 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday through December 20.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. The December 13 dance is preceded at 6 p.m. by a Christmas party potluck; bring a dish to pass and your own table setting. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $4. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**"Twelfth Night": Greenhills School.** *December 6 & 7.* Jim Posante directs Greenhills high school students in Shakespeare's comedy of misplaced affections and mistaken identities. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, everyone eventually snaps back into place, but with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

★**Winter Choir Concert: Huron High School.** Richard Ingram and Bonnie Kidd lead all of the Huron choirs in a program that ranges from medieval works to Il Divo songs, including works from America, Europe, and Africa. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2040.*

★**Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 12 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program that includes arrangements of songs by U2 and Coldplay, an arrangement of a South African folk song, the spiritual "Calling My Children Home," an art song by Franz Schubert, Quaker and patriotic songs, the annual favorite "Wintertime Aglow," and more. Also, a performance by Western Michigan University's Voce. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Ypsilanti Community Band & Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Jerry Robbins directs this 70-member adult band in a program of Christmas music that includes Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music,* Elliot Del Borgo's *Glory of Christmas,* and a medley of holiday tunes. Ariel Toews-Ricotta conducts the choir in Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." The program concludes with a joint performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 654–9414.*

★**"Red Light Winter": U-M Basement Arts.** *December 6–8.* Alex Bisker directs Adam Rapp's claustrophobic and gritty drama about 2 buddies, a prostitute, and the seamier side of human nature. *Evening time TBA, U-M Duderstadt Center Video and Performance Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–6800.*

"A Good Boy": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. *December 6–9.* U-M musical theater professor Linda Goodrich directs U-M opera students in a studio production of U-M grads Brian Spitulnik and Sam Davis's new musical adapted from their Hopwood-

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 24
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7 pm Family Service
9 pm Communion Service
11 pm Candlelight Service
$2 parking at Liberty Sq. Garage before 6:30 pm; free after 6:30 pm

Green Wood Christmas Eve Service
5 pm Candlelight Family Service

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Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
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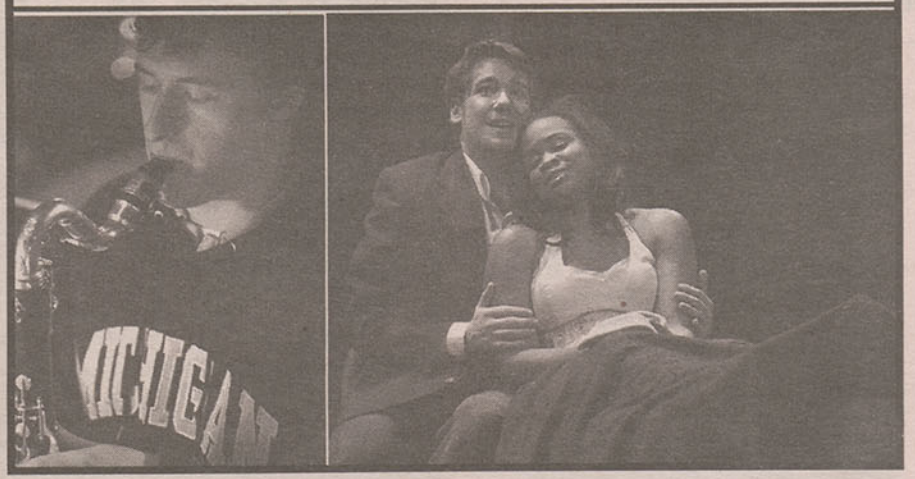

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winning story about a boy whose family begins to unravel when his mother's forgotten past suddenly refuses to remain repressed. *7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $16 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"J. B.": U-M Theatre Department. *December 6–9.* U-M theater professor Philip Kerr directs U-M drama students in Archibald MacLeish's 1959 Pulitzer Prize–winning verse drama, an adaptation of the Book of Job about a wealthy banker whose children and property are destroyed by horrible accidents, forcing him out onto the street with his wife, where he is plagued by a series of comforters. *7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

★Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music. U-M music professor Ellen Rowe directs these music-student ensembles in compositions and arrangements by Bob Brookmeyer, Carla Bley, Dennis Wilson, and John Clayton, along with some of her own. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington. Free. 764–0594.*

Sid Samberg: Kerrytown Concert House. This young Chicago composer-pianist, a member of Midwest Young Artists, performs a program of his own compositions. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Dan Hicks: The Ark. Part of a tradition of white hipster singer-songwriters that stretches from Hoagy Carmichael to Mose Allison and Tom Waits, Hicks and his band, the Hot Licks (and Lickettes), perform a retro-hip blend of western swing, ragtime, old-time country, and 40s jazz. His musically eclectic original songs sport wry, offbeat lyrics that totter teasingly between a revelatory humor and wise-guy foolery. His current show, "Holidaze in Hicksville," features such warm-hearted holiday standards as "Daddy Drank Up Christmas," as well as material from his new CD *Selected Shorts. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Tallis Scholars: University Musical Society. Founded in 1978 by director Peter Phillips, this British a cappella choral ensemble has earned superstar status in the world of Renaissance music. Its exquisitely precise intonation and luxurious yet ethereal sound have awed fans worldwide and resulted in brisk sales of over 30 recordings. While the Tallis Scholars—which takes its name from the 16th-century "father of English cathedral music"—specializes in the music of English church composers, its repertoire includes a wide spectrum of European sacred music. Tonight's program includes sacred works by Palestrina, Josquin, Jean Lheritier, Jean Mouton, Thomas Crecquillon, and Jacobus Gallus. *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Tickets $35–$45 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. *December 6 & 7.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *December 6–9.* David Andrews directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert and Sullivan's 1882 comic operetta about the fallout from a secret love affair between the fairy Iolanthe and a mortal Lord Chancellor. The plot centers on their son, Strephon, who loves the humble Phyllis but is kept from marrying her by several nobles who also covet her. The fairy band reacts by placing Strephon into Parliament, where his magical powers ensure the passage of any bill he supports. When Strephon drafts a bill basing membership eligibility in the House of Lords on intelligence, the peers are thrown into a tizzy. Iolanthe is especially prized for its music, including the arias "O Foolish Fey" and "Blue Blood," and the dizzying patter song "When You're Lying Awake with a Dismal Headache." Cast includes Tom Petiet, Brian Tanner, Matthew Grace, Robby Griswold, Daniel Szekely, Claire DiVizio, Courtney Miller, Alexandra Kahn, Lori Gould, Emilia Boffi, and Rebecca Nathanson. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $16 & $20 (seniors, $12 & $16; students, $10 & $14) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

gun shows

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The Huron Gun Collectors

Everything for the well-armed family

A handmade sign is taped to the front door at the monthly Huron Gun Collectors meeting at the Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds. It says, "Cameras, video equipment, tape recorders, and concealed weapons strictly prohibited—violators prosecuted." The older women inside who take my money don't give me a second look—but the first collector I visit quickly steps forward and wants to know what I'm writing down.

I tell him I'm writing an article and ask about the sign on the door. He says there are lots of reasons for the strict policy—including the hope of deterring thieves. I listen but am distracted by a beautiful single-shot Remington rifle. "Oh, you like that, do you?" he asks, and he shows me an antique model 42 Winchester, made in the 1930s or 1940s. It's engraved with a hunting scene, complete with pointing dog and flying pheasant inlaid with gold. The wood is AAA-grade walnut. Price tag: between $20,000 and $30,000. "These aren't the kind of guns that somebody's going to rob the 7-Eleven with," he laughs.

The club president tells me stories about antigun activists who take pictures of gun dealers and then put them on their websites. It's never happened here, or to anyone he personally knows, but hearing about it is enough to worry him. "We're like family here," he says. "We take collections for the Saline Food Bank—have a scholarship program for colleges and trade schools."

My father has a lifetime membership in this club, and I came here with him as a young girl. In fact, there are lots of kids here today with their dads. The old dealers tease them a bit, asking, "Are you staying out of trouble?" They nod and smile. Most of these dealers are older folks—farmers and hunters. Except the National Rifle Association instructor—he's my age, and is a retired police officer and Drug Enforcement Agency agent. He eyes me warily for a minute till I reassure him with my my-dad's-a-lifetime-member speech. He gives me handfuls of pamphlets about gun safety and Michigan laws, and two magazines—one entitled *Woman's Outlook*—celebrating firearms freedom and outdoor lifestyle.

In addition to shotguns and handguns, I find holsters, skinning knives (some with gorgeous bone handles), ammunition, powder horns (made from real horns), books, handmade wooden birdhouses and toy boxes, and a wide range of hunting supplies that *don't* cost $20,000. I'd really love a Sydney oilskin slicker—a long weatherproofed coat designed for horseback riding in nasty weather. It has a cape across the shoulders and is split down the back. It's fifty bucks, though, which is more than I can afford. I'd wear it too, despite being a country girl transplanted to the city. With no horse. Or gun.

The next Huron Gun Collectors show is at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9.

—Charmie Gholson

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. *December 6–9 & 13–15.* Marie Jones directs local actors in Tim Kelly's detective spoof. When a socialite rents a creepy mansion in Louisiana for a murder mystery party with friends, a real murder—along with a hungry alligator named Charlie—intrudes, and things go awry. Cast: Jessica Eroh, Richard Heberlein, Danielle Nicholls, Brian Evely, Tia Thomas, Dennis Platte, Jim Dowling, Joe York, Victoria Schon, Rick Katon, Maggie Meyer, and Elizabeth Dieterich. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $16 (students & seniors, $11) in advance and at the door. 483–7345.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Finesse Mitchell: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 6–8.* Popular young African American stand-up comic from Atlanta, a member of the current *Saturday Night Live* cast known for his showmanship, personal charm, and sly-witted observational humor directed at an array of cultural phenomena. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *December 6, 13, & 20.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *9 p.m., Michigan League room D. Free. 971–1809.*

FILMS

M-Flicks/Every Three Weekly. "Shitty Movie Night" (various directors). Pretty self-explanatory. FREE. 763–1107. Nat. Sci. Auditorium, 8 p.m. **MTF. "I'm Not There"** (Todd Haynes, 2007). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

7 FRIDAY

★**"Friday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 or 55–65 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, Munith, Stockbridge, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

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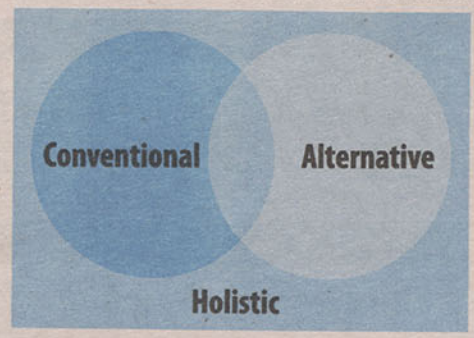

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7 FRIDAY *continued*

"4th Annual Open House": Seventh Street Artisans. Show and sale of paper goods, textiles, pottery, woodworking, jewelry, stained glass, soap, photography, and cards. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., 509 N. Seventh St. Free admission. 994–0531.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Dayle Dodds's ***The Prince Won't Go to Bed*** and Andrew Daddo's ***Good Night, Me.*** Also this month: Lauren Child's ***I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato,*** Michael Rosen's ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt*** and Robert Sabuda's ***Winter in White*** (December 14), Deborah Rose's ***The Twelve Days of Winter*** and Holly Hobbie's ***Toot and Puddle: Let It Snow*** (December 21), and Elizabeth Kann's ***Purplicious*** and ***Pinkalicious*** (December 28). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**"Kabul Transit": U-M Center for Middle East and North African Studies.** Williams College anthropology professor David Edwards discusses this 2006 documentary about life in war-scarred Kabul (see 5 Wednesday Films listing). 764–0350. Angell Hall Auditorium A. *11 a.m.–noon, 1528 C. C. Little, 1100 North University. Free. 764–0350.*

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

"December Craft Show Moonlight Madness": Saline Community Education. Juried show and sale of works by more than 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Also, gingerbread house contest, display, demonstration, and silent auction, along with gingerbread cookie decorating (5–9 p.m.) and a cookie walk. Screenings of ***The Polar Express*** (6 & 8 p.m.), Robert Zemeckis's 2004 family film of Chris Van Allsburg's book about a little boy who desperately wants to believe in Santa. Child care available until 9 p.m. for kids ages 6 months–8 years. Concessions. *5–11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $2 (children age 10 and under, free). 429–8020.*

★**Silent Meditation: Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** *Every Friday.* All invited to sit in silent meditation. *6–7 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Kerrytown Shops/Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Strolling Santa. Kerrytown also features caroling, 6 p.m.–midnight. For more on Main Street activities, see "Festive Friday" listing below. *6 p.m.–midnight, Kerrytown Shops and Main Street & State Street shopping areas. Free admission. 662–5008.*

★**"Trunk Show": Heavenly Metal.** *December 7, 8, & 14.* Displays of jewelry by **Lisa Vetter** (December 7), recycled-fiber children's clothing by **Chris Wood** (December 8), and winter clothing by local fiber artist **Marie Krull** (December 14). *6–11 p.m. (Dec. 7), 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 8), & 5–8 p.m. (Dec. 14), Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663–4247.*

★**"With Punch! VI": Neutral Zone.** A festival with music by local bands, art exhibits, hands-on art activities, a "crayon art" competition, dancing, and food. *6–11 p.m., The Neutral Zone B Side, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★**U-M Wrestling vs. Kent State.** *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

"Pipe Up: A Christmastime Carol Sing and Organ Recital": First United Methodist Church. Local organists perform Christmas organ music, including some sing-along carols. *7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, State at Huron. Freewill offering. 930–9585.*

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** *Every Friday through December 21.* Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Live entertainment by the **Arbor Consort** madrigal chorus and others TBA. Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy the MSAA) at 341 S. Main St. (next to Real Seafood). *7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**China's Stock Exchanges and Domestic Capital Markets: Boom, Bust, and Bellwether?": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Talk by U-M law professor Nicholas Howson. Part of the U-M LS&A China Theme Year. *7 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764–6308.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: poetry by **Kristie Kachler** and prose by **Steve Woodward.** *7 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Concordia Jazz Collective: Concordia University.** Performance by this campus jazz ensemble. *7 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7300.*

Holiday Concert: Saline Varsity Blues. *December 7 & 8.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances that include "Do They Know It's Christmas?" "Gabriel's Message," "Believe," "White Christmas," and others. *7 p.m., Saline High School auditorium, 1300 Campus Pkwy. (off Industrial, north from E. Michigan), Saline. Tickets $8 at the door only. 944–3162.*

"The Firebird": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Stravinsky's brilliantly orchestrated ballet based on the Russian fairy tale in which Prince Ivan enlists the aid of a magical glowing bird in his effort to rescue maidens held captive by an evil ogre. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute children's concerts (reservations required at 487–2448). *7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★**"Red Light Winter": U-M Basement Arts.** See 6 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

"A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

Esham: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Hardcore hip-hop MC from Detroit. *7:15–10 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics.** The U-M women's gymnastics team, which finished 6th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2007–2008 season with an intrasquad meet. *7:30 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Twelfth Night": Greenhills School.** See 6 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Astronomy Department.** All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *8–10 p.m., fifth floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *December 7 & 21.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 5. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock conducts this music-student ensemble in a concert memorializing the Pearl Harbor attack. The program includes Dmitri Kabalevsky's Overture to *Colas Breugnon,* Steven Stucky's *Threnos,* Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium,* David del Tredici's *In Wartime,* and John Mackey's *Turbine. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Uriel Tsachor: U-M School of Music.** This University of Iowa piano professor performs Schumann's Arabeske in C Major and Sonata in F Minor, Beethoven's Sonata in F-sharp Major, Liszt's *En Reve* and *Nuages Gris,* and the "Ondine" passage from Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* suite, a work renowned for its difficulty. "I wanted to make a caricature of romanticism," Ravel explained. "Perhaps it got the better of me." *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Fourth Wish: Kerrytown Concert House. Ballads and blues standards and oddities by this local jazz quartet. Members are winds player Jon Margerum-Leys, keyboardist Tyler Driskill, bassist Rich Rickman, and percussionist Kaamran Hafeez. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students & seniors, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes

sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

John Gorka: The Ark. Acclaimed by *Rolling Stone* as the "preeminent male singer-songwriter of the New Folk movement," Gorka pens intimate, conversational songs and ballads that overflow with vividly imagined details and a sly, probing sense of humor. He's also an engaging singer with a voice that Ark manager Dave Siglin calls "as soft and as strong as Garnet Rogers's or Gordon Bok's." Gorka's latest CD, *Writing in the Margins*, includes a revelatory cover of Townes Van Zandt's "Snows Don't Fall," along with a number of his own contemplative elegies on personal and political themes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Santaland Diaries"/"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Blackbird Theater. *December 7–9.* A holiday double bill of 2 one-man plays directed by Ahmed Muslimani. *The Santaland Diaries* stars William Myers in Joe Mantello's adaptation of David Sedaris's dark, vinegary, outrageously funny monologue by a jaundiced, snippy elf in a department store Santaland display. *A Child's Christmas in Wales* stars Barton Bund in his adaptation of the poignant, nostalgic Dylan Thomas story. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. $20 (seniors, $15; students, $10) in advance and at the door. 332–3848.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Good Boy": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"J. B.": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Finesse Mitchell: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"An Evening of Yogic Chants, Mantra, and Kirtan": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** An ensemble of local musicians leads the audience in a program of meditative, energizing, and healing yogic chants. Performers are vocalist Dennis Chernin, guitarist Glenn Burdick, harmonium player Atmaram, tabla player John Churchville, and cellist Alice Greminger. *8:30–10:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Friday through December 19.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and balboa dancing, with DJs TBA. No partner necessary. Bring a clean pair of shoes to change into. Free beginner lesson (8 p.m.). *8:45 p.m.–midnight, Dakota Building, 1785 W. Stadium Blvd. $5 (students with ID, $3). 972–9141.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

8 SATURDAY

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–9540.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *December 8 & 9. See review, p. 85.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 8), 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 9), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Pleasant Lake Rd.). Admission $4. (810) 227–1637.*

"14th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. A bazaar featuring hundreds of peanut blossoms, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, macaroons, festively decorated sugar cookies, and lots more. Select your own or prepackaged sets. Proceeds benefit the church's mission work. *9–11 a.m. or until*

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Thursdays 6:15PM-7:00PM
Saturdays 10:15AM-11:05AM

Shooting Stars
Starting December 8th
Saturdays 9:15AM-10:15AM

There will be a Holiday Break with no classes, December 23rd through January 2nd, 2008. Classes will resume Thursday, January 3rd.

Classes are offered for kids and adults of all ages.
Classes are held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.
Register at the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Office during business hours. (M-F 9AM-5PM)
Skates are available for all classes at no charge.

Holiday Exhibition
Sunday, December 9th
12:15-2:00PM
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Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. *December 8 & 9.* A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. *9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–0362.*

★**"Space Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** This family-oriented program features a display of NASA moon rocks, light demonstrations, videos of the Apollo moon walks, demos by the University Lowbrow Astronomers and the Huron Valley Rocket Association, and (weather permitting) a chance to view sunspots with the U-M Student Astronomical Society. Also, talks by NASA solar system ambassador Michael Foerster on **"Are We Alone? The Search for Life in the Universe"** (11 a.m.) and **"To Infinity and Beyond! Exploring Space 50 Years after Sputnik"** (1 p.m.), and a talk by University Lowbrow Astronomers member Mark Deprest on **"A Chariot, a Plow, a Big Dipper, or a Great Bear: Myths and Stories of the Night Sky"** (2:30 p.m.). Regular planetarium shows (see 1 Saturday listing). *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"Holiday Greens": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club members help participants make a take-home holiday basket or a swag. For an additional $10, participants can also decorate a take-home wreath. *9:30 a.m.–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $10 materials fee. 665–7072 or 996–8942.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

3rd Annual Cookie Walk: St. James Episcopal Church. Show and sale of a variety of cookies to buy by the pound. *10 a.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 3279 Broad St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–8247.*

"Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage": Of Global Interest. Show and sale of a range of Nepali gift items, gathered by local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369–3107.*

★**Santa Claus: Downtown Home & Garden.** Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, and cider. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *December 8 & 22.* Indoor dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Hobby equipment sale by Rider's Hobby. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.)–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (313) 565–2815.*

★**Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Also, horse-drawn carriage rides (nominal fee TBA), a petting farm, and teen bands at the Foggy Bottom Coffeehouse. Santa is at the downtown gazebo (11 a.m.–3 p.m.) to talk with kids and have photos taken with him for free. Hot cocoa and cookies. Also, Mrs. Claus hosts lunch at the Alpha Coney (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) and is at the Dexter Pharmacy (12:30–1:30 p.m.) to talk with kids and have photos taken with her. Ice sculpture exhibit (noon–4 p.m.) at the Dexter Pharmacy shopping plaza. At 4 p.m., the **Fred Schmid Memorial Holiday Light Parade,** a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. The parade is followed at 4:45 p.m. by the **5K Candy Cane** ($20), a competitive 5-km run with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and **Santa Fun Run** ($5), a quarter-mile fun run for kids, with registration available at dexterchamber.org and at 3disciplines.com. Today's activities begin with **breakfast with Santa** (9:30–11 a.m.). The festival kicks off at 7 p.m. on December 7 with a **tree lighting ceremony** and **carol singing** by choirs from Peace Lutheran and Dexter United Methodist churches. Warm refreshments available. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426–0887.*

Holiday and Studio Sale. *December 8 & 9.* Show and sale of blown glass, ceramics, paintings, pottery, digital prints, mixed-media collages, and gemstone

Whitnie Crown Wolverton sings Dowland

An epicurean experience

Local music lovers know soprano Whitnie Crown Wolverton primarily from her work with Vox. Founded in 2000 in Ann Arbor and relocated to Chicago in 2006, Vox was a twelve-voice a cappella ensemble dedicated to medieval and Renaissance music. This meant mostly sacred music—which meant Crown Wolverton's soprano was almost always pitched light, bright, high, pure, and clear.

At the Concordia University chapel on Sunday, December 9, Crown Wolverton will descend from the world of spiritual innocence and enter the world of epicurean experience with a program called *A Musical Banquet: A Sumptuous Collection of Renaissance Lute Songs Arranged for Voice and Guitar.* With guitarist Jeremiah Benham and viola da gambist Debra Lonergan, Crown Wolverton will perform mostly songs by Elizabethan composer John Dowland—the darkest, bleakest, smartest, sexiest, and by far the bestest English songwriter before Lennon and McCartney.

Why these particular songs? "When Jeremiah and I were deciding on what kind of program to do," replies Crown Wolverton, "I had just listened to a recording by Christopher Parkening and Kathleen Battle with a set of pieces by John Dowland. It was really beautiful and interesting repertoire. Although this music was originally composed for lute and voice, it was very effective and in my opinion fantastic for guitar and voice, with the guitar for the most part just a transcription from the original tablature."

Why these songs in this order? "Deciding the order of a concert is akin to planning a menu," says Crown Wolverton. "One starts with a tempting but appropriately light appetizer; next is the entree; then, after a break, dessert, something sweet and delicious; and the meal would finally end with a digestif."

Thus Crown Wolverton has built her recital from four sets of songs. "The first set, 'Come Again, Sweet Love,' is light and deals with the temptation of love, being in love, love unknown, and so on. The second set, three songs from 'A Pilgrim's Solace,' is pretty heavy musically, with dramatic texts and sonorities. The third set, 'Flow, My Teares,' deals with tears, pain, and death." After two weighty entrees, Crown Wolverton has chosen as "something sweet and delicious" four songs from Dowland's collection of Continental tunes *A Musical Banquet*.

After that? " 'Rest, Sweet Nymphs' is kind of like our digestif, a stunningly sweet and poignant lullaby by Francis Pilkington we thought would be a lovely way to send people back into the world and off for the evening." Crown Wolverton and Benham will perform all three verses of Pilkington's tune, thereby sending people off with these tender sentiments: "Lulla lullaby, lullaby hath pleased you and eased you and slumber sweet seized you, and now to bed I hie."

—James Leonard

jewelry, by 6 local artists. *Noon–5 p.m., 623 & 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327–3727.*

"Christmas at the Farmhouse": Rentschler Farm Museum (Saline Area Historical Society). *December 8 & 9.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas at this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum, currently festooned in period holiday decorations. Docents in each farmhouse room discuss period furnishings and holiday preparations. Nibbles, and a gift shop stocked with a new 500–piece puzzle depicting the farm, and railroad caps, trivets, local history books and booklets, rag rugs, collectibles, etched mugs, cake plates, mix, and more. *Noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 8) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 9), Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan, Saline. Donation. 769–2219.*

★**Chris Chiaru Lin: Borders Express.** *Every Saturday.* This Detroit children's book writer (and U-M grad) discusses ***Mandy and Pandy Say "Ni Hao Ma?"***, his bilingual children's book that offers an easy way to learn basic Chinese. *Noon, Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, & 23.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members and infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History.** *December 8, 9, 15, & 16.* This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. Refreshments include lebkuchen. Also, 10 a.m.–noon this weekend only, kids can have their photos taken with the stars of the Ann Arbor Ballet Theater production of the *Nutcracker* ballet (see listing below). $10 includes a personal photograph, holiday gift bag, and refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

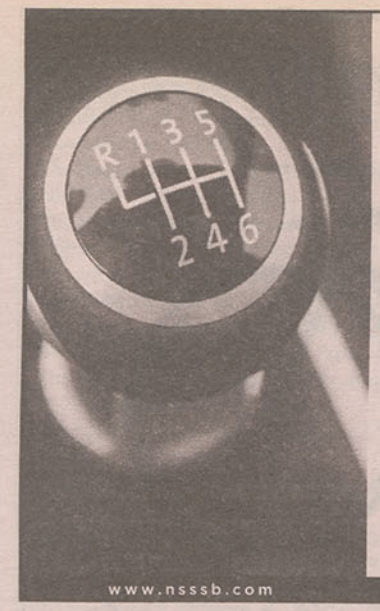
★**Mitchell Rycus: Barnes & Noble.** This U-M urban planning professor emeritus is on hand to discuss and sign copies of his semiautobiographical novel ***Rub Up: Musings of a Navy Corpsman.*** *1–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Jazz Combo II: EMU Music Department.** Mark Pappas directs this music-student ensemble in a program of jazz standards and contemporary works. *2 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Edward Parmentier directs this music-student vocal and instrumental ensemble in choral works by Palestrina, Byrd, J. S. Bach, and Schuetz and chamber works by Bach, Praetorius, Couperin, and Monteverdi. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Organ Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Whole Family Recipes: For the Childbearing Year and Beyond": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Center for the Childbearing Year (Ann Arbor) founder **Patty Brennan** discusses this new nutritional resource book she edited. Signing. *5–7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *December 8 & 15.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North*



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Leaf Collection Program EXTENSION NOTICE

To accommodate the later leaf-fall this year, city-wide weekly curbside Compostable pickups will be extended for two weeks through Friday, Dec. 14.

The earliest street leaf sections 1, 2, & 3 on the North side of town will each receive an additional street pickup day on Dec. 10, 11, & 12, respectfully.

Also see www.a2gov.org/leaves.

Street Leaf Collection: Rake leaves into the street the day before the scheduled pickup day listed at www.a2gov.org/leaves or printed in *WasteWatcher*. Leave a 12-inch clearance between the curb and the leaves to prevent storm drain clogging and flooding. Sections 1, 2, and 3 will also be collected on Dec. 10, 11, and 12.

Compostable Curbside Collection is extended through Friday, December 14. Residents may place leaves at the curb in 30-gallon paper bags (available from local retailers) or marked cans on their weekly trash day.

Drop-Off at Compost Center: Ann Arbor residents may deliver up to one cubic yard (approx. six paper yard waste bags) at no charge per visit, to Ann Arbor's municipal Compost Center. Stop at the MRF Scalehouse, 4150 Platt Road, (734) 971-8600, open 8-4 weekdays. More than one cubic yard per resident visit will be charged $10/cy; non-residents and commercial entities are charged $15/cy. Drop-off options are available year-round.

- Compostables may also be taken to the **Drop-Off Station**, 2950 E. Ellsworth, (734) 971-7400, Mon-Sat, 9-5, $14/cy fee.
- **Mulch/Compost:** Mow the leaves into the lawn with a mulching mower or compost leaves into rich humus www.a2gov.org/recycle.

Street leaf pickups may be delayed if the city's trucks and staff are needed to clear street snow.

Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Kentucky. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"Family Latke Hop": Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle-lighting ceremony. *6–9 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: $12 (kids, $6) for nonmembers, $10 (kids, $5) for members. Reservations requested. 971–0990.*

"Holiday Cupcakes": Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods staff member Sarah Henderson shows how to decorate holiday cupcakes. Participants decorate some to take home. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. $10. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

"A Church Is Born": Dixboro United Methodist Church. The church celebrates its sesquicentennial with Donal Burn's play dramatizing its 1858 founding. Followed by refreshments. *7 p.m., DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Freewill offering. 665–5632.*

"As Time Goes By": 32nd Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. Lavishly decorated gala, with a *Casablanca*-inspired theme. Cocktails and a gourmet French dinner, followed by dancing to music by Intrigue. Proceeds benefit the oncology unit. *7 p.m.–1 a.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. $1,250–$50,000 per couple. Reservations required. 712–4040.*

"Winter Wonderland: Carnival of the Animals": Dance Gallery Studio. *December 8 & 9.* Dance Gallery dancers perform divertissements inspired by birds, fishes, elephants, and bumblebees, and choreographed to the famous Saint-Saens score. Also, a version of *The Dying Swan*, performed by Julianne O'Brien Pedersen and her video double. *7 p.m., Forsythe Auditorium, 1655 Newport Rd. Tickets $10–$20 sliding scale in advance and at the door. 747–8885.*

"A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7 p.m.

Jewmongus: The Blind Pig. Acerbic song comedy by former Rockapella frontman Sean Altman, a versatile artist whose current act usually includes some guest performers. "While his punk-rough approach and vividly iconoclastic lyrics place him in an up-to-date arena, he echoes such forebears as Eddie Cantor and Lenny Bruce and upholds the tradition with biting, bitchen acuity," says the *LA Weekly*. Altman recently released his debut Jewmongus CD, *Taller than Jesus*. *7:15–10 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $17 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $20 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. *December 8 & 9.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. A **Sugar Plum Fairy tea** ($10 in advance only) featuring cast visits, photos with the Sugar Plum Fairy, and refreshments precedes the Sunday matinee at 1 p.m. *2 & 7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets $18 (students & seniors age 60 & over, $12) available in advance at youthdancetheatre.org and at the door. Group rates available in advance only 475–3070.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Bowling Green. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"Tales of Old Vienna": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. An elegant evening of 19th-century dances, including the quadrille, the Viennese waltz, the polonaise, czardas, the mazurka, and more, with live music by the Quadrille Band from Jackson. Vintage attire (see vintagedance.com/dress-rag.htm) encouraged but not required. Dancers of all abilities welcome. Refreshments. Also, $5 preball workshops (free for those attending the ball), 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange Hall, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $25. Preregistration requested. 769–0041.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom danc-

christmas music

D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A

Whit Hill and John Latini get in the spirit

I love Christmas music—the carols, the classics, even many of the novelty tunes; perhaps a surprising admission from a Jewish boy who as a child never sang them, or even heard them much.

Okay, you're waiting for the other Christmas stocking to fall, right? Here it is. I am decidedly more ambivalent about the deluge of Christmas music that floods the airwaves, earlier and earlier it seems, each year—especially the new songs, many of which seem to be merely crass attempts to cash in on the Yuletide season.

Recently, though, I came across twelve new songs, one for each day of Christmas, that are not cynically pitched at the mass market—though the masses should, and I hope will, discover them. The music on Whit Hill and John Latini's *D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A* makes me smile, grin wickedly, and laugh out loud, and also gives my sentimental side plenty to savor. The recording has more clever lines and rhymes, more terrific singing and musicianship, than most trees have Christmas lights.

Latini's "Going with My Cousin to See Santa at the Mall" unwraps the CD. Doesn't that title conjure up a whole home video of holiday images? It has lyrics like "Every year my list was half as long as I was tall" and "They'd make the North Pole look like it was someplace you might go," all drolly delivered in Latini's gravelly Greg Brown-esque bass. His "Christmas in Michigan" adds more memorable lines: "Six months till I'll fish again,/'Cause I put away my gear when ice fishing starts./I never was fond of frozen parts."

Hill's "Jasper's Worst Christmas" perfectly captures the antispirit of Christmas: "I didn't get what I wanted./I didn't get what I wanted./Sister she got everything,/And I didn't get what I wanted." Hill sings it in a just-right mix of childish whine, nasal twang, and bluegrass high lonesome.

Her homage to the Lionel electric train is a fine sketch of the classic toy, but it also has a broader perspective: "How I wish I lived down there,/In this town where all is fair. . . . And everything works just fine,/And everyone arrives on time." Latini has a train song too, and in contrast to Hill's, which has a solo acoustic guitar backing, his track roars like a runaway freight train.

There are sweet ballads like the jazz-inflected "Snow in the City," which Hill cowrote with husband Al, and her country-flavored "Caledonia, Christmas Day." There are dark moments too. Hill's "Mama Made Her Getaway" is sad enough for any day of the year. You won't want to hear it on Christmas, but when you do listen, it will open, and break, your heart.

Whit Hill, John Latini, and friends present the songs from *D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A* at the Ark on Saturday, December 15.

—Sandor Slomovits

ing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $4. 822–2120.*

★"Beethoven: The Sonata Obsession": U-M School of Music. U-M music students perform three of Beethoven's sonatas: the Cello Sonata in F Major, the Cello Sonata in G Minor, and the Clarinet Trio in B-flat Minor. Part of a 2-year exploration of Beethoven's sonatas inspired by the University Musical Society Beethoven Sonata Project. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Magnificently Baroque for the Holidays": Vocal Arts Ensemble. This 24-member chamber choir performs Magnificats by Vivaldi and Giovanni Pergolesi and a selection of holiday carols. *8 p.m., St. Clare/Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. $15 (student and seniors, $10) at the door only. 665–7823, 741–7451.*

"Heroes": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Arie Lipsky conducts the symphony in a program of heroic works highlighted by a performance of Strauss's imagistic tone poem *Don Quixote (see review, p. 79)* featuring cellist **Sarah Cleveland** and violist **Yizhak Schotten.** The program also includes Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony,* composed to honor Napoleon but rededicated to Beethoven's Viennese patron, Prince Franz Joseph von Lobkowicz, when Bonaparte crowned himself emperor. The performance is preceded at 7 p.m. by a lecture on the program, with musical examples, by Lipsky. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10–$45 ($25 dinner-and-concert package available for those ages 21–39) in advance at the AASO office, 220 E. Huron, suite 470. Half-price rush tickets for students with ID at the door only. 994–4801.*

All about Eve: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. The local trio Katie Geddes, Debra Gerber, and Deb Wood presents a variety of close-harmony pop covers, folk, and gospel songs, some performed a cappella and some accompanied by pianist John Goodell. *8 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

Lucy Kaplansky: The Ark. This acclaimed singer-songwriter, a former clinical psychologist, is known for her strong, supple voice and her wryly engaging blues- and country-flavored ballads. "Kaplansky's voice has a tender, vulnerable, confessional quality, and she consistently uses it to her advantage in neatly tailored acoustic settings," says *Washington Post* reviewer Mike Joyce. Her latest CD, *Over the Hills,* is a collection of intimately personal songs exploring lives lived and roads traveled. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Youssou N'Dour & Super Etoile: University Musical Society. The world's most famous Senegalese musician—he was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people this year—singer-songwriter N'Dour is joined by the Super Etoile ensemble to perform songs from his critically acclaimed CD *Rokku Mi Rokka (Give and Take).* N'Dour is best known for his fusion of driving Senegalese mbalax with Western elements, but his new CD features a fresh, adventurous return to his roots to present other Senegalese musical styles, all overlaid by N'Dour's warmed-honey voice. An *fRoots* reviewer calls the disc "scudding clean and fresh out of the blocks with a succession of snappy, sparky tracks with great tunes." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$48 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★"Red Light Winter": U-M Basement Arts. See 6 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

"A Good Boy": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 6 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries"/"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Blackbird Theater. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"J. B.": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Finesse Mitchell: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Kenville Studios, 323 Hoover St. $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 213–0537.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

FILMS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ Star Bright Cinema. "The Nativity Story" (Catherine Hardwicke, 2006). Drama about the birth of Jesus. FREE. 665–6149. Bethlehem Church (423 S. Fourth Ave.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

9 SUNDAY

Holiday Sale: Art in the Barn. Show and sale of handmade items from 25 local artists, including jewelry, painting, clothing, photography, and mixed media. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 416 W. Huron. Free admission. 834–2488.*

★Kids Event: Ten Thousand Villages. Kids invited to make a handmade gift tag for a Christmas present. *Noon–4 p.m., Ten Thousand Villages, 303 S. Main. Free admission. 332–1270.*

"Winter Trees": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a leisurely hike to discover what the trees look like in winter and to learn how and why trees adapt to the seasons. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

"Historic Homes for the Holiday": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Nine homes decorated for the holidays in Saline's most recently designated historic district. Tour on your own, hop on a horse-drawn carriage, or join a 2 p.m. tour led by Saline historian Bob Lane. *1–4 p.m., 204 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. $10 (seniors age 60 & over, $7; children age 12 & under, free). 944–2388.*

★"Beautiful Orchid Cacti": Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society. Slide-illustrated talk by a club member TBA. *1 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. (248) 790–9089.*

★32nd Annual Christmas Sing: Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor/Ann Arbor North Rotary Club. More than 500 people usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause, Charlie Phibbs, Mike Fedel, and Tony Famie lead the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Organ accompanist is Andrew Rogers. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performance by the Huron Valley Harmonizers, a popular local barbershop chorus. Emcee is WAAM radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. All invited to come early at noon and help the Michigan Theater decorate its Christmas tree; free cider & doughnuts. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8397.*

★Jazz Holiday Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Students ages 10 to adult perform in small jazz combos. *1:30–4 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Free; donations accepted. 995–4625.*

★Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

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★**"On the Other Side of the Pond: Exploring the Brauer Wetlands": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A county naturalist TBA leads a hike to this seldom-visited corner of the Brauer Preserve to identify wetland plants and look for signs of wildlife. Wear boots. *2–4 p.m., Brauer Preserve, Parker Rd. just south of Waters Rd., Freedom Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

★**Gabriel Richard High School Madrigal Singers: Barnes & Noble.** This local high school choir performs traditional Christmas music. *2–4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★**"8th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to bring an instrument, a folding chair, and a music stand to join (or just listen to) around 40 players in an outdoor performance of holiday carols "heard as never before," says an organizer, on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available ($10). Dress warmly. *2–3 p.m., S. State at North University. Free (performers, $6). 395–9544.*

"Winter Wonderland: Carnival of the Animals": Dance Gallery Studio. See 8 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 8 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Good Boy": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries"/"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Blackbird Theater. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"J. B.": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Olde Decembers": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of holiday music from earlier centuries. Also, a tribute to Edward Elgar, with choral transcriptions of works by Elgar and Barber. Accompanist is local pianist Gene Gaunt. *3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Donation. 429–7323.*

"The Tale of St. George and the _____": Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

19th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Bonnie Kidd conducts 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers in a program that includes the Bach/Stoelzel aria "Bist du bei mir," the French carol "Noel Nouvelet," the spiritual "Mornin' Glory," and "Jingle Bell Swing," as well as works by Handel and Vaughan Williams and several folk song arrangements. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5) at the door only. 996–4404.*

Barton Rotberg and Sungeun Kim: Kerrytown Concert House. MSU student violinist Rotberg and Virginia Waring International Piano Competition-winning pianist Kim perform a program of works by Beethoven, Respighi, and Ravel. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**"A Musical Banquet: A Sumptuous Collection of Renaissance Lute Songs Arranged for Voice and Guitar": Concordia University.** *See review, p. 89.* Soprano **Whitnie Crown Wolverton,** a member of the local Vox Early Music Ensemble that decamped to Chicago a couple years ago, returns to town as part of a duo with Chicago classical guitarist **Jeremiah Benham** to perform a program highlighted by 10 songs by the great Elizabethan composer John Dowland. Also, 4 songs by different composers included in *A Musical Banquet of 1610* and 17th-century English composer Francis Pilkington's lullaby "Rest, Sweet Nymphs." Accompanist is local viola da gambist **Debra Lonergan.** *4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

Leo Kottke and the Turtle Island String Quartet: University Musical Society. A perennial winner of the Best Folk Guitarist award in Guitar Player magazine's annual readers' poll, Kottke is known for the elegantly understated grittiness of his approach to a richly varied acoustic repertoire. Critic David McGee calls him a "staunch traditionalist" whose music embodies "a profound commitment to the simple virtues of harmony, melody, and if you will, plain talk found in country, folk, and blues songs." Kottke is also a compelling singer with a deep, resonant voice and an expert entertainer whose concerts are by turns humorous and spellbinding. He performs tonight with the Turtle Island String Quartet, whose newest member, local fiddle prodigy **Jeremy Kittel,** performs on viola. Yo-Yo Ma has called TISQ's combination of classical and contemporary musical styles "authentic and passionate . . . a reflection of some of the most creative music making today." Tonight's eclectic program includes songs from the Jewish and Hindu traditions—Hanukkah & Diwali, respectively—old English carols, and Scottish reels. *4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $22–$46 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society/Reconstructionist Havurah. Family-oriented program of latke making, dreidel spinning, menorah lighting, crafts, and schmoozing. All invited. *4–7 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (family, $10) donation. 913–9705.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Fresh Tracks,*** Georgia Beers's Lambda-winning novel about a cabin owner who invites her friends to stay with her for the holidays, little suspecting how things will turn out. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4186.*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Agatha Christie's classic ***Murder on the Links.*** *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Pakistan's Crisis: Crushed Mosques, Civilian Generals, and Exiled Politics" : U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by world-renowned Middle Eastern expert (and U-M political science professor) **Juan Cole.** *5–7 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–4568.*

"The Thumpin': How Rahm Emanuel and the Democratic Party Learned to Be Ruthless and Ended the Republican Revolution": Jewish Community Center. *Chicago Tribune* reporter Naftali Bendavid discusses his book. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a reception for Jewish Book Festival sponsors. *7:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: $12 (kids, $6) for nonmembers, $10 (kids, $5) for members. Reservations requested. 971–0990.*

Lehto & Wright: The Ark. The highly regarded Minneapolis duo of singer-guitarist Jim Wright and guitarist Steve Lehto performs traditional American, English, and Irish music, along with some folk-rock originals. "The band's third CD [*A Game of Chess*] again features wonderfully intricate, powerful guitar-driven music based on traditional songs from the British Isles, utilizing both acoustic and electric instruments to create some sonic marvels," says a *Dirty Linen* reviewer. "Wright's wiry voice has the perfect sort of raw edge for these gritty arrangements. If you're a fan of electric folk or just great guitar playing, Lehto & Wright are worth your attention." *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

34th Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. "Smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, turn out every year for this feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's lineup of top-notch performers includes veteran Detroit blues pianist **Bob Seeley,** local ragtime pianist **John Remmers,** acclaimed ragtime historian **Mike Montgomery,** local musician **Kerry Price,** Ala Mode Vocal Quartet accompanist **Loren Greenawalt,** and a string quartet from the **River Raisin Ragtime Revue.** *7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets $15 in advance at Nicola's Books and at the door. 665–6158.*

★**"American Visions": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Marsha Norman's 1983 Pulitzer Prize–winning play ***'Night Mother*** and Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize–winning trilogy ***Angels in America.*** *'Night Mother* is a controversial drama about a divorced woman, living with her mother, who chooses suicide in an effort to take control of her own life. Set on the evening when the daughter reveals her intention to kill herself, the action explores the nature of love, the relationship between mother and daughter, the meaning of suicide, and the value of life. "Humor and pathos pop up as naturally as wildflowers or fences by the roadside," says critic John Simon. "There is a devastating psychological accuracy, and nothing seems contrived." Subtitled "a gay fantasia on national themes," *Angels in America* is an ambitious, sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining Reagan-era politics, religion, the AIDS plague, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. The drama centers around one HIV-positive man, his friends and loved ones, and the various presences who haunt him, including angelic messengers and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. *7:30 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Alisa Dodson calls to music by Dr. Grangelove. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

★**"Lisa Does Stand-Up": Goodnite Gracie.** *December 9 & 23.* Short sets by several local amateur and professional stand-up comics TBA. *9–11 p.m., Goodnite Gracie, 301 W. Huron. Free. 623–2070.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***Shooter*** (Antoine Fuqua, 2007). Action thriller about an ex-marine sniper framed by the CIA for attempting to assassinate the president. Mark Wahlberg. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Sundance Shorts."** *December 9–11 & 13.* A collection of short films from the 2007 Sundance competition. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **Pfizer Family-Friendly Film Series. "The Muppet Christmas Carol"** (Brian Henson, 1992). The Muppets retell the classic Dickens story. Michael Caine (as Scrooge), Gonzo (as Dickens), Kermit, Miss Piggy, and Fozzie Bear. $8.50 (children 12 and under, free). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 4 p.m.

10 MONDAY

Social Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *December 10 & 24.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $1. 769–5911.*

★**Jann Martin: Barnes & Noble.** This local writer is on hand to discuss and sign copies of her new children's Nativity book ***This Babe, So Small.*** *1–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. USC. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** *Every Monday except December 3.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.*

★**"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930–0617.*

★**All Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School.** Deborah Henderson conducts school ensembles in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

★**Flute Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct the music-student Flute Choir and small ensembles in a program TBA. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra and University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts both ensembles in the orchestral premiere of U-M composition professor Evan Chambers's ***The Old Burying Ground,*** a cycle of mournful, sonorous art song settings of 18th- and 19th-century epitaphs from tombstones in Jaffrey and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The songs, which mix classical and folk idioms, are sung by Chambers and other singers TBA and interspersed with readings of poems written for the project by Thomas Lynch, Keith Taylor, Jane Hirshfield, Richard Tillinghast, and Paula Meehan. The work premieres at Carnegie Hall next February. Also, Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Back Forty: The Ark. Local acoustic string jam quintet that plays a brand of twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and psychedelic rock that it calls "down-home funkgrass." Opening act is **The Hummingbirds,** the twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music duo of local singer-

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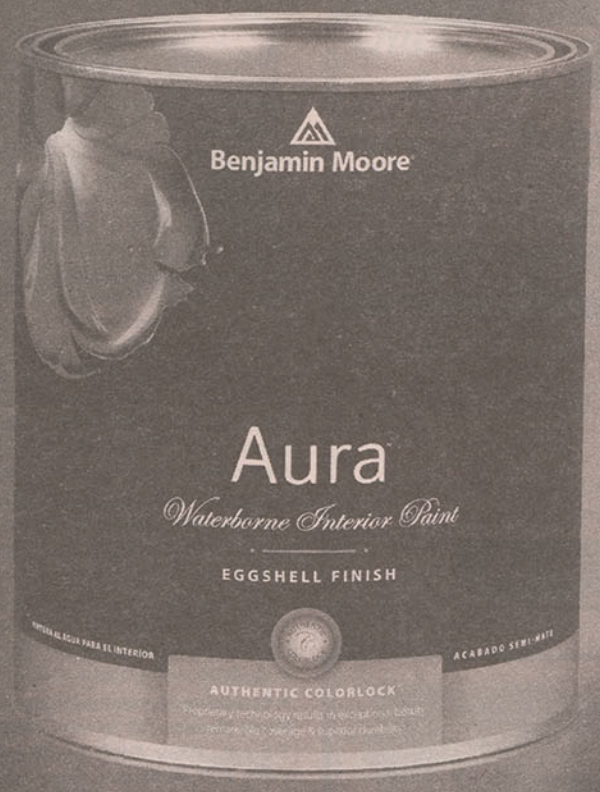

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10 MONDAY *continued*

guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula. Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Sundance Shorts." See 9 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

11 TUESDAY

"Happiness: All of a Sudden It Is Everywhere!": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Lecture on the recent spate of books and magazine articles examining the nature of happiness, by Oakland University English professor emeritus Brian Murphy. 4th in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

"Ten Tips for Healthy Living": American Business Women's Association Maia Chapter. Talk by Whole Foods Market marketing director Susan Bellinson. The program begins with networking and dinner. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $17. Preregistration required. (517) 290–5646.*

★**Ann Arbor Backgammon Club.** Players of all levels of ability invited to play this popular board game. Bring your board. *7 p.m., Leopold Bros., 523 S. Main. Free. 936–6876.*

★**"Get the Energy to Enjoy Your Life!": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7 p.m., Babies R Us, 3725 Carpenter Rd. Free. Reservations requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Looking Beyond Antidepressants": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** Screenings of episodes from the popular science-fiction TV show ***Battlestar Galactica.*** Pizza. *7–9 p.m., Duderstadt Center Videoconference Suite, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–2553.*

"Cinema Slam": Michigan Theater Foundation. A lively, entertaining 2-hour smorgasbord of films made by Ann Arborites, from VHS home movies to 35–mm films by independent filmmakers. All invited to submit a film in VHS, DVD, or Beta format. "It's not a film till someone sees it!" Followed by an informal reception with the filmmakers at Espresso Royale on State Street. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5. 646–9364.*

★**"Ski Trail Emergencies; or, I'm Pretty Tired, It's Getting Dark, and I Know I Shouldn't Ski Alone, but I Think I'll Go Around One More Time": Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** Talk by U-M Outdoor Adventures director Jeanette Stawski. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. *7:30 p.m., Old 2nd Ward Bldg. (aka Hathaway's Hideaway), 310 S. Ashley. Free. 662–SKIS.*

"Human Rights in Colombia": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Talk by ICPJ member Mary Ann Perrone. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church Memorial Lounge, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–1870.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival,*** Bernd Heinrich's mesmerizing critically acclaimed study of the way animals cope with the cold of winter. A *Scientific American* review notes, "There cannot be many people who have gone into a beavers' lodge." *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★**Opera Gala: EMU Music Department Opera Workshop.** Kathleen Segar directs EMU opera students in memorable scenes from various operas. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Cabaret Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M students from Joan Morris's cabaret performance class perform songs by Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Leiber & Stoller, Harry Warren, Arnold Weinstein & Pulitzer Prize–winning local composer William Bolcom, and others. *8 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin. Free. 764–0594.*

★**University Chamber Choir: U-M School of Music.** Jerry Blackstone conducts this music-student ensemble in Mendelssohn's Te Deum, the premiere of U-M music student Rob Vuichard's "Heliocentric Meditation," Steven Stucky's *Cradle Songs,* and the traditional "Deck the Halls." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

FILMS

MTF. "Sundance Shorts." See 9 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

WCBN-FM. "The Sound of Music" (Robert Wise, 1965). Perennially popular film adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, set in Austria on the eve of WW II, about the Von Trapp family's singing governess. Julie Andrews. FREE admission. 763–3500. Live at PJ's (102 S. First), 9 p.m.

12 WEDNESDAY

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. *December 12, 13, & 15–17.* This award-winning local children's theater presents Jeff Duncan's adaptation of E. B. White's beloved tale of a friendship between the little pig Wilbur and the remarkable spider who helps him win a blue ribbon at the fair and saves his life. Geared toward audiences in grades K–5. Cast: Sandy Ryder, Kevin Stacy, Michelle Lanzi, Lise Lacasse, Laura Croff, Abby Ryder-Huth, and Justin Vidovic. As with all Wild Swan productions, the play is interpreted in American Sign Language. Backstage touch tours and audio descriptions are available for blind audience members (call 995–0530). *12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children, $8) in advance or at the door. 995–0530.*

★**Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:45–2:45 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Oakland. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Relief from Arthritis": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 302–7575.*

"Top 27 of 2007": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of Zingerman's most notable products, including perennial favorites, obscure oddities, new foods, and old ones that hit it big this year. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**"Annual Potluck and Members Slide Show": Wild Ones.** Members give short slide-illustrated talks about their adventures with native plants. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). *7–9 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–6981.*

★**"Finding Funding for a College Education": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M foundation and grants librarian Karen Downing introduces a variety of web resources for people seeking college funding and discusses how to formulate a cohesive grant-seeking strategy. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch computer lab, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. Preregistration required. 327–4560.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 5 Wednesday. Tonight: poetry readings by 2 recent U-M creative writing grads, **Laura Wetherington** and **Anna Vitale,** the cofounders of the online audiomagazine *textsound.* 7–9:30 p.m.

Ingrid Michaelson: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Indie pop-rock quartet led by this young New York singer-songwriter with a soft-edged crystalline voice and a talent for writing songs that pair sunny melodies with melancholy lyrics. Her intensely emotive songs have been featured on the soundtracks of *Grey's Anatomy, One Tree Hill,* and other TV shows. *Note:* Michaelson is at the downtown Borders at 12:30 p.m. this afternoon to sign copies of and perform cuts from her new CD, *Girls and Boys. 7:15–10 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**All Choirs Concert: Greenhills School.** Deborah Henderson conducts the school's vocal ensembles in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

Aimee Mann: Clear Channel Entertainment. A cofounder of the early 80s New Wave band 'Til Tuesday who first gained mainstream attention when 8 of her songs were featured on the soundtrack of the 1999 film *Magnolia,* Mann is a veteran pop-rock singer-songwriter who specializes in spare, sharply incised snapshots of human relationships in varying states of disrepair. Her latest CD, *The Forgotten Arm,* loosely chronicles the experiences of a 70s couple who meet at the Virginia State Fair, fall in love, and travel across the country together. Tonight's Christmas show features a number of holiday songs mixed in with old and new Mann originals, along with a number of guests. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25 & $35 in advance at the Michigan Union*

The Concert for Peace

Who's listening?

GREGORY FOX

Once a year Michigan Peaceworks throws a fund-raising party at the Ark. When I arrived last year, I found a gaggle of local singer-songwriters and musicians lining the back halls, waiting to play their one song each. Engineers scurried about, helping each performer do a sound check.

"This is the last peace concert show we'll have to do," MC Chris Buhalis told the standing-room-only crowd, "because the Democrats are in control now, and they would *never* vote for a war." The audience groaned.

Storyteller LaRon Williams, decked out in vibrant, living colors, pulled folks from the audience to help act out a folktale. The story was one I'd heard before, about a peasant weary of his creaking floors and leaking roof. He seeks counsel with the local wise woman (played by a young girl), who tells him to bring his pig, cow, and chicken into the house. When the man is at wits' end with the critters, she instructs him to remove them, one by one. Now he has gratitude for his imperfect lodging.

LaRon is dedicated to redefining peace as more than simply an absence of war. Peace, he said, is a set of social skills that need to be practiced all the time, so we can create a peaceful society and planet.

Laz Slomovits and his wife, Helen, joined Lori Fithian and Sepideh Vahidi to perform a Gypsy-sounding prayer/chant, calling for "truth we can all believe, dreams and hopes that remain alive, and the Earth renew herself." Joe Reilly urged us all to sing with him and "create some peace, everybody, right here and now, and send it out into the world." We all sang with him, "Eliminate the silence. No war. No violence."

While singing these prayers, I wondered—what are we *doing*? What does the manifestation of our united voices look like? Are we lighting up Michigan on the wall map in the Spirit conference room?

And is there a surveillance system of lights that go off in response, to rouse the attention of warmongers? "Alert! Alert! People singing about love and light! Take action!!"

Not all the songs were about light and love, though. Dick Siegel performed a rocking Christmas song, and Annie Gallup did her usual charming, funny storytelling about a circus performer who makes things disappear.

Near the end, Buhalis sang a poignant Pete Seeger song, "Bring 'Em Home," but first he shared a story about a phone call he received. Someone told him that he's going to "burn in hell with Hitler, Stalin, and Gandhi." Ah, that simplifies things. Thanks, hostile caller, for reminding us of our job as peacemakers. Ya gotta love everybody—especially the warmakers. Love wins.

This year's Concert for Peace is at the Ark on Sunday, December 16.

—Charmie Gholson

Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.

Paul Geremia: The Ark. A longtime local favorite, Geremia is one of the country's most renowned acoustic blues guitarists. Accompanying himself on piano and harmonica as well as guitar, he's also an engagingly rough-edged singer with a repertoire that includes traditional acoustic blues in a variety of regional rural and uptown idioms, as well as many originals in traditional styles. "Every song bears his unmistakable stamp: unerringly funky rhythm and guitar runs whose spectacular virtuosity is never overdone," says a *Boston Globe* reviewer. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ Star Bright Cinema. "The Preacher's Wife" (Penny Marshall, 1996). Holiday comedy about an embattled inner-city preacher who asks God for help and gets it in the form of a putative angel, who gradually falls in love with the preacher's wife. Denzel Washington, Whitney Houston. FREE. 665–6149. Bethlehem Church (423 S. Fourth Ave.), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

13 THURSDAY

★"The Chopin Etudes: Defining One's Pianistic Kingdom": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Lecture-recital by First Baptist Church organist Joel Hastings. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 996–1344.*

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 12 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★"Folk Dancing": International Neighbors. Ann Arbor International Folkdancers member Pat Micks teaches easy-to-learn dances from a variety of cultures and countries, including Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, France, Israel, South Africa, Turkey, and more. All area women invited. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call to find out what equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petit fours, and cookies to kids and families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *4:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $6. Preregistration requested by Dec. 10. 665–9468.*

★Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Bring a dish to pass (and your own table service) for the potluck; beverages provided. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Proceeds benefit avian education and research. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662–4582.*

"Holiday Specialties": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet.

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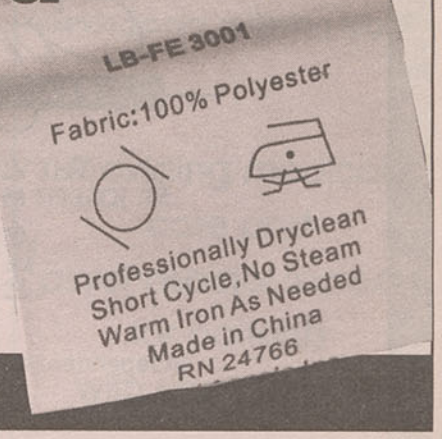

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13 THURSDAY *continued*

7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) $30 at the door. 213–1393.

★**"You Won't Believe What's Inside You: The Truth about Whole Body Cleansing": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local iridologist and natural health expert Kimberly Didia. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★**Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School.** The Symphony Orchestra performs Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 5 and his "Marche Slave." The Chamber Orchestra performs the "Sentimental Sarabande" movement from Benjamin Britten's *Simple Symphony,* and the Philharmonia performs Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto* no. 3. Also, works for solo violin, viola, cello, and bass. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Free. 994–2120.*

"GuitarSong: Songs, Tales, and Dances for Guitar": Kerrytown Concert House. *Postponed from August.* The award-winning local guitarist **Matthew Ardizzone** performs a program of songs by composers from Spain, Brazil, Cuba, and the British Isles. A *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* critic has called Ardizzone an "expert in the intricacies of his role, always playing with sensitive nuances." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2991.*

Lee Murdock: The Ark. Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his **"Christmas Ship Concert,"** a family concert commemorating a turn-of-the-19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with a deck piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Lou Santini: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 13–15.* Ann Arbor debut of this L.A. comic, the winner of the 2004 San Diego Comedy Festival, who's known for his smartly crafted absurdist anecdotes about the hassles and detours of daily life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Sundance Shorts." See 9 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

Holiday Celebration: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited for a holiday party with food, caroling, and musical entertainment TBA. Door prizes. *11:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $20. 769–5911.*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *December 14 & 28.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

Dance: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All senior singles and couples age 50 & older invited to dance to recorded music from the 30s, 40s, & 50s. Casual attire. Refreshments. *4:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $4. 769–5911.*

★**"Super Smash Brothers Regulation Throwdown": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grade 6–12 invited to compete in a tournament playing Super Smash Brothers. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Tradicional Pastorela & Posada Mexicana": Alebrije Productions. This local Latino cultural group presents a traditional Mexican Christmas party highlighted by performances, in Spanish, of a *pastorela,* a Mexican version of the medieval miracle play that depicts the struggle between good and evil through the story of Lucifer's efforts to divert the shepherds from their pilgrimage to see the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem, and a *posada,* an enactment of Joseph and Mary's quest for lodging on their way to Bethlehem for the census. This family-oriented program also features songs, dance, games, pinatas, face painting, food, and more. *6–9:30 p.m., First Methodist Church Cultural Hall, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. $6 (kids, $3) suggested donation. 330–1890.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2–10 can enjoy dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $20). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Sandor Ellix Katz's ***The Revolution Will Not Be Microwaved: Inside America's Underground Food Movements.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Adult Dance Show": Ann Arbor Community Recreation and Education.** Adult Rec & Ed dance students perform belly dance, ballet, hip-hop, and ballroom dance. *7 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free. 994–2300 ext. 53228.*

The Temptations: Washtenaw Community College Living Legends Interview & Concert Series. An onstage interview is followed by a performance by this legendary Motown vocal quartet, whose current lineup features original member **Otis Williams** along with **Bruce Williamson, Ron Tyson, Terry Weeks,** and **Joe Herndon.** This iteration of the group just released the CD *Back to Front,* a collection of soul classics ranging from Barry White's "Never, Never Gonna Give Ya Up" and Sam and Dave's "Hold On, I'm Comin' " to the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself." *7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $35, $55, & $75 in advance and at the door. 973–3450.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *December 14–16 (different locations).* Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 32 boys in its 21st annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is Kirke Mechem's *The Seven Joys of Christmas,* a suite of traditional carols each of which celebrates one of the joys of Christmas: the joy of bells, of drums, of dance, etc. The program also includes Alfred Burt's "O hearken ye" and his "Jesu parvule," Holst's charming suite of carols *Christmas Day,* H. C. Stewart's "On this day earth shall ring," Malcolm Archer's arrangement of "People, Look East," Mack Wilberg's calypso arrangement of the Caribbean carol "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy," Mendelssohn's arrangement of "Hark! The herald angels sing," and David Willcocks's arrangement of "O come, all ye faithful." The Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs Bob Chilcott's "This Joy," John Barnard's arrangement of "Travellers' Tales," and Randall Thompson's "The Carol of the Rose," and a 24-voice ensemble of boys ages 11–18 that includes both changed and unchanged voices performs "O magnum mysterium" and David Conte's "A stable lamp is lighted." The choirs are accompanied by First United Methodist Church organist Naki Sung Kripfgans. The Boychoir Christmas CD is on sale. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. *7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5; family, $40) in advance at aaboychoir.org and at the door. 663–5377.*

"The Sweet Sounds of the Season": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 213–3770.*

"Alice's Adventures in Strange Worlds": Young Actors Guild. *December 14–16.* Sue Roe directs local young actors in her adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice books. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $12 (students through high school, $9) in advance and at the door. 913–9800.*

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that

provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. $11 (students, seniors, & members, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Lou Santini: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Lust, Caution" (Ang Lee, 2007). *December 14–20.* Passionate, romantic thriller, set in WW II Shanghai, about the slow seduction of a government worker by a sexy spy. Mandarin, Cantonese, Shanghainese, Japanese, & English; subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. "Lighthouse Fall Festival."** *December 14 & 15.* Screenings of animated, digital, and conventional-film movies made by freshmen and sophomores (December 14) and juniors and seniors (December 15). *Note:* The Saturday show is usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early. FREE. 764–0147. Natural Sciences auditorium (830 North University), 6 p.m.–midnight.

15 SATURDAY

61st Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions, that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the count for the Washtenaw area (which is centered on Ann Arbor), call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

★**"Breakfast With Santa": First Choice Chiropractic.** A family-oriented program with free breakfast, craft activities, and a chance to chat with Santa. *9–11 a.m., FCC, 4748 Washtenaw. Free. 434–1100.*

★**Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998–9540.*

20th Annual Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Orthodox Church. Big sale of ethnic pastries, Christmas cookies, baklava, pirogie, strudels, and breads. Also, sale of religious items and ornaments. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd. (2 miles west of Baker). Dexter. Free admission. 761–7311.*

★**"Spiritual Warrior Martial Arts": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** An introduction to silat, the martial arts of Sumatra. *10 a.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

"Saturday Fling": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A day of winter fun for kids in grades K–5, including (depending on the weather) sledding, building shelters, cooking marshmallows on the fire, and games. Pizza lunch. Dress for the weather. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $24 (nonresidents, $30). 997–1553.*

★**Phil Wong: Barnes & Noble.** Local writer discusses and signs copies of ***The Little Girl*** (see 3 p.m. listing below). *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Arbor Consort: Kerrytown Shops.** This polished local a cappella ensemble strolls singing through Kerrytown Market in Victorian costumes. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., Kerrytown Market. Free. 662–5008.*

★**"Super Smash Double Dash Grand Championship": Ann Arbor District Library.** High-ranking contestants from the last 4 monthly **Super Smash Brothers Melee** and **Mario Kart Double Dash** video game tournaments for kids in grades 6–12

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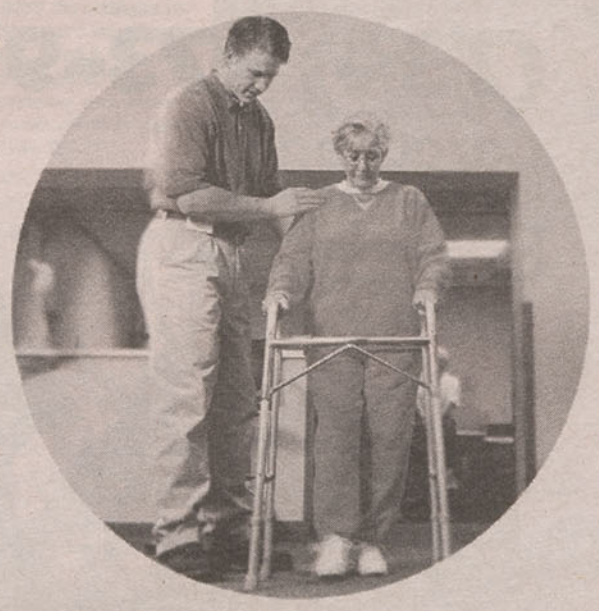

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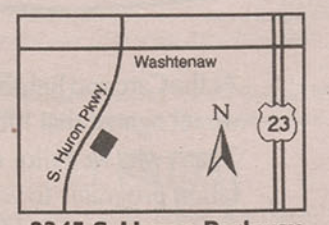

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★**"Wrap It Up!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to make gift tags and wraps using stamps, paper, and ribbons. Materials provided. *1–3 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the parents of the cosmos, primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday (7 p.m., 263 Larkspur). *2–5 p.m., IC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 262–1052.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. CMU. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"Alice's Adventures in Strange Worlds": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 12 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

43rd Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:15 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *2:30 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Meg Gower at 433–0150.*

Annual Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by students in the school's youth orchestras. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. $10 suggested donation. 995–4625.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 14 Friday. *3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.*

★**"The Little Girl": University Lutheran Chapel Common Cup.** Local writer (and adoptive parent) **Phil Wong** (see 11 a.m. listing above) reads from his children's book about a bachelor who adopts an abandoned child from China. Also, a display of the original watercolors used in the book. Hors d'oeuvres from Pacific Rim (3 p.m.). Signing. *3:30 p.m., Common Cup (lower level), 1511 Washtenaw. Free. 327–6914.*

★**LezRead Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Immaculate Connection,*** Jackson author Michelle Sawyer's novel about a Manhattan lipstick lesbian who finds that romantic commitment isn't always easy. Sawyer and fiction writer Lev Raphael ***(Hot Tricks)*** are on hand for Q&A. *4 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 272–9353.*

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2007–2008 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Here Comes the Light": Treetown Community Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free; donations accepted. 213–3770.*

★**"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts such as the Srimad Bhagavatam, on Shavite, Tantric, and Bhakti traditions, and on the writings of poet/saints such as Kabir, Tulsidas, and Mirabai. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. Also, dessert potluck (bring a dessert to share); chai & tea provided. *7:30 p.m., Zen Temple Annex, 1224 Packard. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by Pittsfield Open Band, which is led by guest director Susan Songer of Portland, Oregon. The band also plays music for **couple dancing,** 7–8 p.m. No partner

Writers Reading at Sweetwaters

Poetry and coffee

Whenever I stop in at the downtown Sweetwaters, I see nearly as many laptops as coffee mugs. Sure, most of those laptop tappers are probably rapping out term papers, checking emails, or instant-messaging friends, but I'm guessing that at least some of them are working on a novel, or writing poetry.

I know for certain that on the third Tuesday night of every month, nearly everyone in the side room, off the main Coffee and Tea Club room, is a writer, or a fan of writing. It's the monthly Writers Reading at Sweetwaters, started in October 2006 by Chris Lord, a poet and winner of several local writing contests, and Esther Hurwitz, a freelance writer who used to coordinate the similar Feed the Poets series at the dear departed Del Rio.

There's not a laptop in sight as the writers walk to the back wall and recite poems or brief prose pieces, even sing a song or two, into a lone microphone plugged into a nearby boom box. The mike helps them compete with the faint hum of conversation and cappuccino machines, and the clinking of cups coming from the main room. Their reward when they finish? Enthusiastic clapping and a chunk of a chocolate chip or molasses cookie, courtesy of Sweetwaters.

The other main reading venue in town is the Heidelberg Club Above, monthly home of the Ann Arbor Poetry Slam—but, as someone said at a recent WR@S, "not everyone is a slam kind of poet." And since Sweetwaters serves no alcohol, it has a less competitive, combative ambience.

WR@S does attract some slammers. Larry Francis, who teaches English at Canton High School and heads up the Ann Arbor Poetry Slam team, is a regular. Mike Moriarty, a U-M frosh and a member of that team (which made it into the top twenty-five at the nationals), showed up recently with his younger brother, Chris, who read "How to Fall in Love with Your Father," a poem he might not have featured at a rowdy slam. Not that every poet is greeted with reverent silence: a man from Toledo was warmly welcomed by a shouted "We won't hold that against you!" Another drew a big laugh when he began, enigmatically, "Being a retired poet is like being a defrocked priest." And while most of the poetry is family friendly, there is the occasional X-rated expletive or anatomical reference.

Most months, the format of WR@S is a brief reading by a featured writer, followed by an open mike. In December it will be different. Lord and Hurwitz are publishing an anthology of works by past WR@S participants, and the final Writers Reading at Sweetwaters of 2007, on Tuesday, December 18, will be devoted to readings by those writers.

—Sandor Slomovits

needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

Whit Hill & John Latini: The Ark. *See review, p. 91.* These 2 veteran local singer-songwriters showcase tunes from their 2006 CD collaboration, ***D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A,*** a collection of what they promise are "sweet, silly, grumpy, silly, funky, lovely songs about Christmas." Hill and Latini are joined by several local musicians, including Hill's Postcards bandmate (and husband), guitarist and keyboardist Al Hill, and Latini's brother, drummer Jim Latini, along with bassist John Sperendi and other guests TBA. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

23rd Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *December 15 & 16.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The score is performed live by the Michigan Sinfonietta, conducted by Leo Najar. *2 & 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $26.50 (students & seniors, $22.50; kids 12 & under, $16.50) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Butler Did It, Again!": P.T.D. Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Lou Santini: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing. Balkan, Middle Eastern, and European dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson on some of the easier dances. *9–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

★"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 1 Saturday. 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

The Lemonheads: The Blind Pig. Recently reunited with a revamped lineup, this popular 90s postpunk rock band led by singer-songwriter Evan Dando showcases material from a forthcoming new album. Opening acts are **The New Rivals,** an indie pop-punk band from Long Island, and **Racoon,** an acclaimed Dutch pop-rock quartet whose socially conscious ballads and story songs have provoked comparisons to U2 and Paul Simon. *10:30 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $16 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $18 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lust, Caution" (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. "Lighthouse Fall Festival."** See 14 Friday. Nat. Sci., 6 p.m.–midnight. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

16 SUNDAY

★"The Road to Christmas": West Side United Methodist Church. The congregants' children present the church's original set of vignettes, featuring characters from the Bible, that explore the real meaning of Christmas. *9 & 11 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free. 663–4164.*

"The Life of Buddha": Zen Buddhist Temple. Second in a series of 4 monthly talks by Zen Buddhist Temple seminary students. Followed by discussion. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard. Donation. 761–6520.*

★"Update on 'An Inconvenient Truth'": First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Frank Parkinson, who was trained by Gore to present the *An Inconvenient Truth* slide show, shows and discusses some of the slides and discusses reactions to the film. *10:45 a.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–6158.*

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Frosty the Snowman in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★"Mario-Rama": Ann Arbor District Library. Game players of all ages invited to play a tournament featuring 8 different Mario video games. Pizza, snacks, & beverages. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

Student/Faculty Dance Concert: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Performances by Arts in Motion students and faculty in a variety of dance forms, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, musical theater, and more. All proceeds benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. *1 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. $10 (kids under age 12, students, & seniors, $8). 222–6246.*

★Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***Creative Visualization,*** Shakti Gawain's guide to using mental visualization. *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Meredith Davis: Parents, Friends, & Families of Lesbians & Gays. This WMU grad student discusses generational differences in the coming out process for lesbians. *2–5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 741–0659.*

"Winter Food for Man and Beast": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. A county naturalist TBA discusses winter wild edibles for mice, muskrats, deer, and humans. *2–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. $4. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day ($2 for seniors age 62 & over), $20/year. 971–6337.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman and David Park Williams, who also lead "play-party" games. Music by David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. Cocoa and Grange-baked cookies. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $6 (family, $12). 769–1052.*

23rd Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Alice's Adventures in Strange Worlds": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 12 Wednesday. 2 & 4 p.m.

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band/ Dexter Community Orchestra. Double bill. Bill Gourley directs the band in Randal Alan Bass's setting of *Night Before Christmas* and other seasonal music TBA. Don Parrish conducts the orchestra in Faure's Pavane, Anderson's *Christmas Festival,* and Dvorak's *Slavonic Dances* nos. 1, 2, and 4. Also, the 2 ensembles join forces to perform holiday music. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426–2734, 355–0725.*

"The Tale of St. George and the _____": Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★"Sufi Chanting: Meditation and Healing": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on traditions of Sufi masters. *4 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir and 2 children's choirs and Suzanne Bender directs the bell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a solo treble performance of "Once in royal David's city" and includes music by Britten, Howells, and Mendelssohn, as well as arrangements of traditional music by David Willcocks and others. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 14 Friday. *5 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St. Dexter.*

★"Living Nativity": Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Living Nativity scene with live animals, accompanied by a concert on the church's newly renovat-

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ed Casavant pipe organ. *6–8 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–6149.*

★Living Nativity: First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. *December 16–18.* Nativity tableau featuring live animals, people in period costume, and recorded music. Also, carol singing and animal petting. The 6:30 program is especially aimed at children. *6:30, 7, & 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, 1110 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. 485–4699.*

★Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The program begins with a performance of the late Katherine Katz's Nativity drama *The Ann Arbor Christmas Play.* Followed by lighting of the Christmas tree, singing, and socializing. Bring a Christmas sweet to share. *Evening time TBA, Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 485–3764.*

"Holiday Concert": Measure for Measure and Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs local men's chorus Measure for Measure and the YSO in a joint performance of Mark Reise's *Trilogy* (arrangements of the Christmas carols "I saw three ships," "God rest ye merry, gentlemen," and "What child is this?"), Adolphe Adam's arrangement of "O holy night," and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Also, the YSO performs Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival,* Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on "Greensleeves," and Bach's Suite for Orchestra no. 3. Measure for Measure performs "Choose Something like a Star" from Randall Thompson's *Frostiana* with piano accompaniment, along with a cappella renditions of Vene's arrangement of Viadana's "Exsultate Justi," Alfred Sturgis's "Sing Noel!," Pietro Yon's "Gesu Bambino," Lance Wiliford's arrangement of the Welsh carol "Suo Gan," Uzee Brown's "Go Where I Send Thee!" and (in Russian) the Six Psalms from Rachmaninoff's Vespers. *7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (seniors, $14; students, $12 & under, 7) in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 487–1221.*

5th Annual Concert for Peace: The Ark. *See review, p. 95.* Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include **Chris Buhalis, Dave Boutette, Annie and Rod Capps, Stewart Francke, Jo Serrapere, Dick Siegel, Laz Slomovits, Jay Stielstra, John Latini, Tony Morgan, Whit & Al Hill,** the **Royal Garden Trio, Mutual Kumquat,** and **FUBAR.** Also, storyteller **LaRon Williams.** Proceeds benefit Michigan Peaceworks. *7 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at MichiganPeaceworks (120½ W. Liberty), Fourth Ave Birkenstock, Arbor Brewing Company, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***Knocked Up*** (Judd Apatow, 2006). Sex comedy, from the director of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin,* about an unexpected pregnancy resulting from one drunken night shared by a 20–something Jewish Canadian slacker and a TV news anchorwoman. Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. "It Happened on Fifth Avenue"** (Roy Del Ruth, 1947). Comedy about a mysterious hobo who takes over a vacated mansion in New York and entertains and unexpectedly enriches the lives of his guests. Don DeFore, Ann Harding, Charlie Ruggles, Victor Moore. FREE. 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Lust, Caution"** (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

17 MONDAY

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 12 Wednesday. 12:30 p.m.

★Embroiderers Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 913–8886.*

FILMS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ Star Bright Cinema. "Joyeux Noel" (Christian Carion, 2005). Moving portrait of the celebrated 1914 WW I Christmas Eve truce when French, German, and English soldiers put aside their missions to play soccer. French and German, subtitles. FREE. 665–6149. Bethlehem Church (423 S. Fourth Ave.), 7 p.m. **MTF. "Lust, Caution"** (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 TUESDAY

★**"Portrait of an Artist: Marc Chagall": Temple Beth Emeth "Movie Tuesday."** Screening of Kim Evans's 1985 documentary about this French artist born in a Jewish ghetto in provincial Russia, the only film made about Chagall in his lifetime. Coffee and noshes provided. *1–3 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

"Stella's Extra-Special Oysters": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young and oyster specialist Lauren "Stella" Bridges host a dinner featuring oysters from around the country in almost every course, and Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses the importance of place in their different flavors. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"Sweet News": Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** *See review, p. 99.* Readings by contributors to ***Writers Reading at Sweetwaters,*** a collections of poems that have been read at this monthly series. Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Non Scents: Scents, Your Body, and Going Fragrance-Free": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local fragrance-free expert Stephen Nose. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★**"Great Adventure Trips Around the Globe": Sierra Club.** Several club members give talks on their most adventurous trips. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 615–0516.*

★**"Christmas Concert": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs an ecumenical choir of local church members in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 663–3800.*

★**Winter Band Concert: Huron High School.** Stephen Roberts and Jay MacArthur direct the Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands in Clifford Barnes's *Persian Carnival*, Hugh Stuart's *Three Ayres from Gloucester,* Bobby Christian and Mark McDunn's *Magoonga do Brazil,* Peter Tchaikovsky's *Russian Choral and Overture,* Daniel Bukvich's *Voodoo,* Robert Washburn's *Kilimanjaro: An African Portrait,* John Barnes Chance's *Variations on a Korean Folk Song,* Aaron Copland's *El Salon Mexico,* Scott Boerma's *Bora Bora,* and Grainger's *Lincolnshire Posy. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–1900.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lust, Caution" (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

19 WEDNESDAY

★**"Systemic Enzymes: A Pathway to Health": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local acupuncturist Gary Merel. *7–9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests, with a focus on **favorite Christmas stories.** The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. *7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 971–3455.*

"Steppin' Out V: Charity Begins at Civic": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. Curt Waugh directs Civic Theater singer-actors in a program of holiday songs from the Christmas TV programs *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, How the Grinch Stole Christmas,* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Also, a preview of songs from the AACT's upcoming January production of *Bat Boy: The Musical*. Proceeds benefit the AACT. *8 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $15 and $25 in advance at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater and at the door. 971–2228.*

"A Christmas Carol": MorrisCo Art Theatre. *December 19–23.* Tim Henning directs his adaptation of Dickens's familiar tale about Ebenezer Scrooge's tortuous journey from bilious tightwad to gracious benefactor. The cast includes Steve Elliott, Bob Seeman, Andrew Hall, Tony Putnam, John Alexander, Patricia Rector, Connor Laporte, Susan Morris, and Griffin Hall. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15–$18 in advance and at the door. 996–2549.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Lust, Caution" (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

20 THURSDAY

★**Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Maps about Food": U-M Map Library.** A chance to peruse a 1642 Dutch map of the Spice Islands, A&P's large 1932 food map of the United States, and maps related to wine, cheese, coffee, and tea. Refreshments. *4–7 p.m., Graduate Library Map Library (8th floor), 920 North University. Free. 764–0407.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★**Town Meeting: Megiddo Peace Project.** Veteran local activist Al Haber leads a group discussion of a variety of issues from reclaiming the commons to Middle East peace. Followed at 9:30 p.m. by a screening of one of two 2005 documentaries, Ward Powers's ***One, the Movie*** or William Nessen's ***The Black Road.*** Refreshments. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a pot luck social (bring a dish to share). *7:30 p.m., 310 S. Ashley. Free. 761–7967.*

"A Christmas Carol": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 19 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

L. A. Hardy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 20–22.* This L.A. comic is known for his sardonic stories about everyday life and biting social commentary. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $9 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lust, Caution" (Ang Lee, 2007). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

21 FRIDAY

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Ohio. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**"Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. *7–9:15 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

"A Christmas Carol": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 19 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

L. A. Hardy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

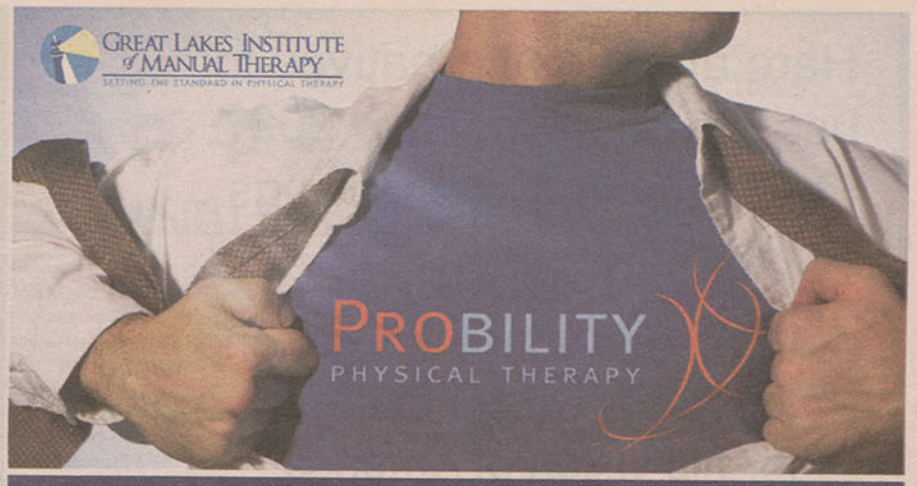
Christmas Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Atonement" (Joe Wright, 2007). *December 21–31.* Poignant drama about a thwarted epic romance, based on the Ian McEwan novel. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

22 SATURDAY

Maureen Schiffman and Coco: Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Local puppeteer Schiffman brings her monkey puppet pal for a multicultural holiday program of songs and stories



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galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. *Main Library,* 343 South Fifth Avenue: *Michigan Quilt Artists Invitational: Art of Music; Len Pershin Metalwork Sculptures* (December 2–January 15). ***Malletts Creek Branch,*** 3090 East Eisenhower Parkway: *Getting Real: Realism from Six Colored Pencil Artists* (December 15–January 30). 327–4510.

The Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Window Shopping* (December 5–January 6). 997–7012.

River Gallery, 120 North Main, Chelsea. *Graceann Warn* (December 8–January 19). 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Holiday Art Fair* (December 7–9). 480–ARTS.

U-M Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel. *Night Butterfly* (December 3–21). 764–1300.

U-M Duderstadt Center Studio, 2281 Bonisteel. *19171987: Common Bonds through the "Ages"* (December 7). 764–0397.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road. *Science of the Seasons* (through January 1, 2008). 647–7808.

U-M Michigan Union, 530 South State. *Roots and Reaching: A Woman's Oral History* (through December 18). 763–5750.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. *From Papyri to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (December 5–February 2). 764–9377.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2007–2008 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

22 SATURDAY *continued*

for prekindergartners through 5th-graders. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youths age 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. UCLA. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"A Christmas Carol": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 19 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★"4th Saturday Contra Dance and Concert": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Old-time music by the **Millers** and **Debbie Jackson & Friends.** Followed by contra dancing with guest callers TBA. Kids welcome. Holiday treats. *6–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 730–6919.*

The Black House Ceilidh: Kerrytown Concert House. This Detroit-area acoustic ensemble performs traditional Yuletide carols, including Renaissance, Scottish, and Spanish carols, and originals in a traditional vein. "The feel is rustic and raw; you get the distinct impression that this is a minstrel show in your living room," says Carol Swanson in her christmasreviews.com review of the band's 2006 CD *Upon a Winter's Eve: A Collection of Winter and Yuletide Carols of Yesteryear*. "The Black House Ceilidh combines an eclectic array of instrumentals and vocals, and the straightforward presentation is executed with great heart and unfettered simplicity." Members are singer and Highland bagpiper Caleb Gilbert, singer-guitarists Ernesto Villarreal and Kevin Tyler, violinist and hardinger player Judy Plester, lutenist and viola da gambist Michael Manderen, and percussionist Elizabeth Courier. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2991.*

L. A. Hardy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). Oh, you know the story. James Stewart, Donna Reed. FREE. 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

23 SUNDAY

"A Christmas Carol": MorrisCo Art Theatre. See 19 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Baker's Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Tale of St. George and the _____": Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

"Sacred Drum Circle": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited for a freeform drum circle. No experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one. *5 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. $5. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★"Lisa Does Stand-Up": Goodnite Gracie. See 9 Sunday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***National Lampoon's Vacation*** (Harold Ramis, 1983). Comedy about a family vacation gone hilariously awry. Stars Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, with a John Hughes screenplay. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. "Miracle on 34th Street"** (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. FREE. 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 4 p.m. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

24 MONDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *December 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ. *1:15–5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★Living Nativity: First Congregational Church. Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. *10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

FILMS

MTF. "Atonement" (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

25 TUESDAY (Christmas)

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Savages" (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). *December 25–31.* A brother and sister learn about the realities of family responsibility when they have to care for an ailing father who had abused and neglected them. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **Temple Beth Emeth. "Hello, Dolly"** (Gene Kelly, 1969). Adaptation of the hit Broadway musical. Barbra Streisand, Walter Matthau. Tickets $5 in advance, $6 at the door. 665–4744. Michigan Theater, 10:30 a.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

26 WEDNESDAY

"The Big Freeze": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *December 26–31.* Activity tables about the science of cold feature liquid nitrogen demos (noon, 2, & 4 p.m.) and hands-on ice cream making (11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.). Also, a chance to try on blubber gloves, cut snowflakes, examine endothermic and exothermic reactions, and more. On December 27–29 only, live reindeer in the plaza. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 26–30) & noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 31) Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★"Pokemania Tournament Series": Ann Arbor District Library. *December 26–28.* All kids in grades K–5 invited to bring their Game Boy Advance and their copy of Pokemon Diamond or Pearl to compete for prizes in daily tournaments. Also, a chance to trade Pokemon cards and share playing tips. *1–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Teen Open Play": Ann Arbor District Library. *December 26–28.* All kids in grades 6–12 invited to bring their Nintendo DS to play with video games or try Dance Dance Revolution, a computer-guided movement game. *5–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids to use. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Stadium just south of Jackson). Free. 332–1000.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Savages" (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

27 THURSDAY

★"Silly Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program by award-winning local storyteller **Laura Pershin Raynor** for kids age 2 & up. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★"No-Sew Felt Pouches": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a felt pouch for storing valuables. *2–4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

Johnny Winter: The Ark. Winter is a Texas native who, when he was discovered in the late 60s, was hailed as the best young white blues guitarist—which meant he was supposed to be better than Eric Clapton and other English kids who'd been stealing American rockers' thunder for most of the decade. Which meant he was the first Stevie Ray Vaughan. As with Vaughan, the music Winter plays is not blues-rock but authentic blues, mixing Texas flash and Memphis raunch with Chicago grit. Steve Byrne of the *Cleveland Scene* calls *I'm a Bluesman,* Winter's latest CD, "as raw and rugged as anything the man has done." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

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27 THURSDAY *continued*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jim Wiggins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 27–29.* A Chicago native now living in L.A., this eccentric, gravel-voiced, middle-aged comic bills himself as "the last hippie in America." He is known for his amiable, laid-back, but hysterically oddball observations about mature relationships, world peace, and yuppie silliness. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $9 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Savages" (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

28 FRIDAY

★**"Happy New Year Craft": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids from preschoolers to 3rd-graders invited to make a hat and noisemaker for their New Year celebration. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. *December 28 & 29.* 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by Boston College Irish music program director **Seamus Connolly,** a 10-time all-Ireland fiddle champion. He is joined by the renowned piano accompanist **Barbara Mangone.** Also, traditional Irish dancer **Nick Gareiss,** who is joined by Detroit-area step dancers, along with young fiddlers from Mike Gavin's School of Music, other area Irish musicians, and surprise guests TBA. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $16 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jim Wiggins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ Star Bright Cinema. "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. FREE. 665–6149. Bethlehem Church (423 S. Fourth Ave.), 1 p.m. **MTF. "The Savages"** (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

29 SATURDAY

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 28 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jim Wiggins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Savages" (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

30 SUNDAY

"Breakfast with Kabbalah": Chabad House. All invited to chat over breakfast with Chabad House rabbi Aharon Goldstein about kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, and other topics. *10:30 a.m., Chabad House, 715 Hill. $5 donation. 995–3276, 649–1116.*

★**"Wolverine Quad": U-M Wrestling.** The U-M Squad plays matches against **Buffalo** (noon), **EMU** (2 p.m.), and **Lehigh** (5 p.m.). *Noon, Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under age 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"The Poetry of Pizza": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Tale of St. George and the _____": Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***Alpha Dog*** (Nick Cassavetes, 2007). Drama based on the true story of the kidnapping and murder of a 15-year-old boy. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "The Savages"** (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

31 MONDAY (New Year's Eve)

★**"New Year's Eve Gourmet Dinner Party Trek": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal leads a 15-mile hike along the river to Depot Town in Ypsilanti, with 3 stops at picnic tables for appetizers, dinner, and dessert. Bring a gourmet (or ordinary) appetizer, main dish, or dessert, and a hot or cold beverage of your choice. Table service provided. Participants must arrange their own return home. *5 p.m.–midnight, meet at 120 Eighth St. Free. Reservations required. 369–3107.*

★**"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom.** All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 11:30 a.m. on January 1. *7 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761–6520.*

"New Year's Eve Dinner: Around the Country in 30 Flavors": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner featuring dishes from the melting pot of traditions around the country, including oyster bisque, lobster Thermidor, Delmonico steak with Maryland blue crab, and creme brulee. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $55. Beverages served a la carte. Reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

"15th Annual New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Area Visitors & Convention Bureau. This popular festival, drastically scaled back from its usual size, features more than 10 area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti. *At First Presbyterian Church:* fire performance-art (7–7:30 p.m.), the **TNC Players** comedy troupe (8:45–9:30 p.m.), children's music by the popular local acoustic duo **Gemini** (7:30–8:30 p.m.), and local drummer **Lori Fithian** (8:15–9 p.m.). *At St. Luke's:* classical guitar by **Joseph Pratt** (7–10 p.m.). *At Bombadill's:* Celtic Harp and friends (7–10 p.m.). *At First United Methodist Church (various rooms):* Detroit singer-songwriter **Kitty Donohoe** (9 p.m.–midnight) and acoustic folk music by multi-instrumental virtuoso **David Mosher** (9 p.m.–midnight). Also, a Countdown to 2008 starts at 11:45 p.m. at the Depot Town clock. Businesses and museums open 7–10 p.m. tonight include Gordon's Five and Dime, World of Rocks, the Rocket, the Firehouse Museum, and the Automotive Heritage Museum. *7 p.m.–12:30 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets $15 (kids 6–16, $5; 5 & under, free) in advance at Busch's & Nicola's Books and at the door. For an updated schedule of events, see newyearjubilee.com. 483–4444.*

Cash Levy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Ann Arbor debut of this popular comic, a frequent guest on cable and network TV and satellite radio who's known for his adeptness at interacting with his audiences, improvising jokes that play off the mood and makeup of the crowd. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. The early show is a nonsmoking show. The late show includes a champagne toast and party favors. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $25 (8 p.m.) & $30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

New Year's Eve Dance: 5th Saturday Productions. Contra dancing with a caller TBA and music by Dr. Grange Lu (Brad Battey, Dave Orlin, and Judi Morningstar). No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m.–12:30 a.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $15. 484–9964.*

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to rock 'n' roll covers and originals by the **Killer Flamingos,** a popular, veteran band from Wayne. Includes admission to 2 street-level clubs above the Cavern Club, Gotham City and the Millennium Club, which feature dance music by DJs. *9 p.m.–4 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Cavern Club, 210 S. First. $50 includes a buffet dinner and champagne split. Reservations recommended. 332–9900.*

The Chenille Sisters: The Ark. The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand is known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, a comic wit that's both corny and subversive, and a delightfully eclectic repertoire of original songs mixed with jazz, swing, folk, and blues standards. *10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $35 (includes champagne & party favors) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Savages" (Tamara Jenkins, 2007). See 25 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **"Atonement"** (Joe Wright, 2007). See 21 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

Music at Nightspots

pop-rock

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company
114 E. Washington **213–1393**

This downtown brewpub features occasional live music, 9 p.m.–midnight unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Dance Party."** With **DJ Petroglyph,** who spins funk and rock 45s. Come dressed as your favorite rock star. Door prizes. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

The Ark
316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. All headlined Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings. **Dec. 5: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 1: Bronze Nazareth.** Detroit-bred hip-hop MC who is featured on the *Wu-Tang Meets Indie Culture* album, which he also produced. He performs tonight with several members of his hip-hop ensemble The Wisemen. Opening acts are **Still Undecided?,** a local ensemble originally from Grand Rapids that's known for its lyrical, hip-hop–driven experimental music, and **Niacal Youngstarz,** a Detroit hip-hop ensemble. **Dec. 8: Red Leader.** Alternative rock quartet from Ypsilanti that is celebrating the release of its CD *Dawn of the Red*. Opening acts are **Apollo,** a Novi funk band, and **Machine,** a Huron High School hard-rock duo. **Dec. 14: The Macpodz.** See Elbow Room. Opening acts are **The Ragbirds,** an inventive local country-rock band, fronted by singer-songwriter Erin Zindle, whose music mixes in elements of world music, groove rock, and edgy pop, using a diverse mix of instruments, including violin, mandolin, banjo, accordion, acoustic guitar, and percussion elements from around the world, as well as the old-fashioned drumkit, and **Stop 156,** a local teen funk band. **Dec. 15: Forever in a Day**. Detroit indie punk band. Opening act is **Hand Me Down Buick,** a New Jersey pop-punk band.

Banfield's
3140 Packard Rd. **971–3300**

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. December schedule TBA.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon. (except Dec. 31); closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Dec. 1: The Station.** Progressive jazz-rock fusion band from Springfield, Illinois. Opening act is **The Hue,** a progressive rock band from Chicago. **Dec. 4: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 5: "Your Hip-Hop."** Local hip-hop MCs TBA. **Dec. 6: Chris Bathgate.** Local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Opening acts are the Springfield, Illinois, Americana gothic & gospel band **The Homeville Circle,** the local acoustic country-folk band **The Modern Lull,** and the East Lansing acoustic folk quintet **Head & Toe. Dec. 7** (7–10 p.m.)**: Esham.** *All ages admitted*. Hardcore hip-hop MC from Detroit. See Events. **Dec. 7: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 8** (7–10 p.m.)**: Jewmongus.** Acerbic song comedy by former Rockapella frontman Sean Altman. See Events. **Dec. 8: The State.** Veteran local hardcore band fronted by vocalist Preston Woodward. Opening acts are the local metal-edged punk-rock band **Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome,** the local punk-rock band **Bantha Fodder,** and others TBA. **Dec. 11: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 12** (7–10:30 p.m.)**: Ingrid Michaelson.** *All ages admitted*. Indie pop-rock quartet led by this young New York singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 13: Jiva.** Groove-oriented, melodic pop-rock with ethereal guitar textures by this Detroit band. Opening acts are **Vox Maui,** a Detroit psychedelic rock quartet with an avant-jazz edge, and **Bright Out,** a Detroit rock quintet. **Dec. 14: "Zombie Carnival Night."** Headliner is **The Pussy Pirates,** a local all-female avant-jazz punk quintet. Their punchy doomsday horn punk brims with love, spirit, and humor. "The two lead singers growl and shout about demons, jailbait, a half-eaten nun—even when they coo it's full of shrapnel," says *Chicago Reader* critic Liz Armstrong. "It's rousing, painful, and over with quick, like a bar fight." Opening acts are the Chicago postpunk band **Paper Mice,** the Chicago industrial drum 'n' bass band **Slutbarf, The No Joke Sideshow,** and the local **Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co. Dec. 15: The Lemonheads.** Recently reunited 90s postpunk rock band. Opening acts are **The New Rivals** and **Racoon.** See Events. **Dec. 18: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 19: Genesee Ramblers.** Local country and blues band led by the versatile singer-songwriter Mike Boyd. Opening acts are **Scotch Bonnet,** a Downriver psychedelic garage-rock band led by singer-songwriter Scotty Karate, and **Bitter Inks,** an Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio. Also, **Ghostlady,** a male-female indie pop-rock duo. **Dec. 20: Cardif Giants.** Saline rock quartet. Opening acts are **Novada,** a Saline rock 'n' roll band featuring members of Solid Frog and Throttlebody, and **Johnny Rumble,** a Chicago punk-rock quartet. **Dec. 21: "Mittenfest 2."** With local retro-psychedelic pop-jam band **Starling Electric, Canada,** the Detroit indie rock band **The Decks,** and the local indie minimalist pop trio **Lightning Love! Dec. 22: Abolitionists.** Farewell performance by this local hip-hop collective. Opening act is the local hip-hop collective **Tree City,** Detroit hip-hop MC **Cysion the Slickest,** the local alternative rock band **Tenacity,** and hip-hop DJ **DJ Virus. Dec. 26: "Battle of the Bits."** Area techno composers compete for prizes. **Dec. 27: "Zuma Hi-Fi."** Local DJ **Billy the Kid** plays reggae records. **Dec. 28: One Be Lo.** This local hip-hop MC celebrates the release of his new CD. **Dec. 29:** TBA. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

Cavern Club
210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **Every Fri.: DJ Helluva.** Local DJ spins old-school rock. **Dec. 1: Good Gravy.** R&B band from Bloomfield Hills. **Dec. 8 & 15: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Dec. 22: Collision 6.** Detroit rock quintet that plays originals and 80s and 90s covers. **Dec. 29: Zooropa.** Detroit U2 tribute band. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash."** With the **Killer Flamingos.** See Events.

The Circus
210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features karaoke with live musicians, Mon., Wed., & Thurs., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take.**

Club Above
215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only unless otherwise noted. **Every Thurs.: Dance Party.** With DJ Rock and DJ Sterling. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **Dec. 1: Northwick.** Local quartet that plays rock, classic rock, and blues-rock. Opening act is **Matt Calendine,** a blues-funk jam band led by Redford singer-songwriter Calendine. **Dec. 7** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a new 4-song minidisk, *Clean House*, an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Dec. 8: Provecto Sabor.** Local salsa band. **Dec. 14** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Steve Newhouse & the**

Todd Deatherage
Multifaceted material

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Don't let the name fool you (even though that last syllable is pronounced with a long A). Todd Deatherage is not goth or heavy metal or punk. This young singer, songwriter, and electric guitarist, recently transplanted to Ann Arbor, is a pop-rock chameleon whose wide-ranging sound allows multiple interpretations of his original songs.

Maybe his different homes, including Dallas and New York, account for his eclectic repertoire. And he is surely evolving after more than six years of writing and recording. But it is the versatility of his compositions, from cowboy dance tune to smoky ballad to radioworthy pop single, that gives him the flexibility to evolve.

At a recent Blind Pig show with his spare local lineup—bassist Nick White and the incomparable veteran drummer Stuart Tucker—Deatherage offered up straight-ahead midwestern bar rock with simple but serious guitar solos. His vocal control in every song was striking, as was his unexpected falsetto line-endings, reminiscent of local legend Frank Allison. Every number was a Deatherage original except for a credible Hank Williams send-up with some awesome yodeling.

Despite that choice of cover, I came away wondering why Deatherage's work has been described as country-rock. Then I listened to his 2001 release *Dream upon a Fallen Star*, which opens with the same number he used to open his bar set. On the CD, "Man of Me" (as in "Ain't that man of me?") features pedal steel and fiddle and immediately whisks you off to Todd's Texas honky-tonk roots. The next tune, "Desperate," calls out for dancing in cowboy boots to an extra-fast rhythm line behind a slower melody.

Deatherage carries that style through much of the record, but he also throws in a Latin groove in "Over You" (with a haunting falsetto chorus) and a rockabilly crowd pleaser called "She's Leaving Me." He also tries a swanky lounge number, "Lose Myself," complete with sax and trombone, but he doesn't have the pipes to pull it off.

Just as I thought I was figuring him out, I cued up his highly produced 2006 self-titled EP (made in England), and I was amazed to discover a power pop performer whose more complex compositions carry polished layers of sound similar to Sting or Elvis Costello. The lyrics are also dependable pop sentiments like "Am I gonna linger on, after all our days our gone? Will I still be in your head, after final words are said?"

Deatherage's lanky good looks—he's like a sweeter Pete Townsend—should bolster his pop presence. But he is almost too relaxed on stage, hardly seeming to notice when he's playing a cool guitar riff. Maybe he just feels supremely calm and confident with Stu Tucker's smooth percussion. But it's a performing style that risks coming off as reserved and even a little bored.

Maybe that's where the goth comes in. With this much good material to share, Todd Deatherage has something to get excited about. And so do those who hear him.

Todd Deatherage is at the Elbow Room on Saturday, December 1, and at TC's Speakeasy on Friday, December 14.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

Nuke-a-billies. Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **Dec. 15: "Mexican Radio Christmas Party." Dec. 21** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: The Soul Remains.** Rock 'n' roll from Chuck Berry and the Kingsmen to the British Invasion and beyond by this local quartet that describes its sound as "primitive beat music played by prehistoric teenagers." With guitarist Dave Stanton, pianist Jim King, bassist Tom Payne, and drummer Lauck Campbell. **Dec. 22:** TBA. **Dec. 28** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Dec. 29: Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.) and Tues. & Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Dec. 6: Bruno's Boys.** Traditional Irish songs of drinking and rebellion, accompanied on a wide array of instruments, by this Detroit-area duo. **Dec. 13: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 20: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the duo of local singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula. Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. **Dec. 27:** TBA.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Dec. 1: The Angry Ape Quartet.** Original compositions and arrangements and free improvisations by this Ann Arbor/Chicago avant-jazz ensemble that includes bassists Scott Brown and Doug Stuart and saxophonists Danny Fischer-Lochhead and Greg Lindgren. **Dec. 7: "An Evening of Yogic Chants, Mantra, and Kirtan."** Led by an ensemble of local musicians. See Events. **Dec. 8: Luke Winslow-King.** New Orleans–bred singer-songwriter and guitarist who currently lives in Cadillac. "This guy has got as much mojo as Jimi Hendrix, and he is crazy good fun in every way," says local singer-songwriter Sari Brown. **Dec. 14: Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band.** Local sextet led by percussionist Muruga Booker that performs an upbeat blend of rock, worldbeat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. With vocalist Shakti, local keyboardist Martin Simmons, electric violinist Owen Balduf, bassist Richard Smith, and synthesizer player and Zen drummer Ken Kozora. 8–10:30 p.m. **Dec. 15: Joe Reilly and Ian Gorman.** Double bill. Reilly is a local singer-songwriter whose songs draw on blues, Native American, and other traditional American idioms. Gorman is a Kalamazoo singer-songwriter who writes haunting, moodily reflective songs exploring intimate emotional truths. **Dec. 21: Ken King.** Homespun covers and originals by Frog Holler Farm owner Ken King, a versatile country-folk musician who is joined by his son, guitarist Billy King, and various musical friends. Tonight's "Holiday/Solstice Show" features old standards, gospel tunes, and new originals, along with King's "Moonlight Bright as Day" and his political love song "I'd Miss That Kind of Love." **Dec. 22: Xiao Dong Wei.** Local experimental ambient-classical musician who tonight performs solo vocal and instrumental pieces on 2 Chinese instruments, the *ehru* (a 2-stringed violin), and *guzheng* (a zither), and debuts her Chinese pop-punk garage band **Madame XD. Dec. 28: Muruga Booker.** This local master drummer celebrates his 50 years of playing drums with the likes of Weather Report, Jerry Garcia, and Parliament Funkadelic. He performs a set on various drums from around the world, accompanied by his wife Shakti on vocals, followed by a jam session with members of his Global Village and Free Funk bands. **Dec. 29: Winter/Sessions.** Progressive bluegrass with a string Americana flavor by this Michigan quartet.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight and occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 7: The Copycats.** Harmony-driven vintage rock by this local quartet whose repertoire ranges from the Beatles, Dylan, and CCR to Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull. **Dec. 14: Danny "Cash" Guitowski.** Local country singer who specializes in Johnny Cash songs. He is accompanied by bassist Chris Goerke. **Dec. 21: NoXcuses.** Local classic rock, blues, and R&B band. **Dec. 28: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** See Club Above. **Dec. 30: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features occasional live music, 8–10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Dec. 2: Baby Birds Don't Drink Milk.** Indie pop-rock band from Lawrence, Kansas. Opening acts are **Airport** and **Loud Intermittent Tone. Dec. 27: Dustin & the Furniture.** Psychelic folk-rock with a pinch of salsa by Dustin Goldklang, a Boston singer-songwriter whose influences range from Jonathan Richman to Bjork. Opening act is **Toby Foster,** an acoustic folk-punk singer-songwriter from Chicago.

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and bassist Russel Tessier.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Dec. 1: Todd Deatherage.** *See review, p. 105.* Recently transplanted to Ann Arbor from New York City, Deatherage is a country-rock singer-songwriter originally from Dallas whom the *Village Voice* dubbed a "honky-tonk Elliott Smith." Opening acts are the Cincinnati country-punk band **500 Miles to Memphis,** Flint experimental country singer-songwriter Stephen Wisniewski in his guise as the **Empty Orchestra,** and **The Blue Rubys,** a local almost-all-female country-rock quintet fronted by vocalist Nicole Marie. **Dec. 2:** Headliner TBA. Opening acts are **MelOphObia,** an experimental indie band, and **J Graves,** a local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 5: Cheap Girls.** Lansing power-pop trio. Opening acts are **Blackmail,** a Detroit funk-inflected hard-rock band, and **State Bird,** a folk-rock band from Dover, Ohio. **Dec. 7: My Dear Disco.** Local dance septet, formerly known as Toolbox, that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. Opening acts are **Vox Maui** (see Blind Pig) and **Aleph 1,** a local progressive electroacoustic trip-hop band. **Dec. 8: The Mighty Narwhale.** Grand Rapids progressive pop-rock septet. Opening acts are the popular local experimental pop-folk septet **Canada,** the Ypsilanti punk-bluegrass octet **Black Jake & the Carnies,** and the Czech-based, Indiana-bred post-punk country and bluegrass sextet **Austin Lucas & the Pressmen. Dec. 9: Ghost Panda.** Canton indie rock quintet. Opening acts are **The McFlys,** a Lexington, Michigan, pop-punk band, and **Southern Darkness. Dec. 14: Minor Planets.** Local neo-new wave band. Opening acts are the veteran Saline rock 'n' roll band **Novada,** the Milwaukee shoegazer band **Brief Candles,** and the Michigan pop band **Solitary States. Dec. 15: We Are the Fury.** Postpunk pop-rock glam quintet from Toledo. Opening acts are the retro garage rock 'n' roll band **The Beggars,** the local pop-punk band **Bulletproof** and the local rock trio **Noise Way Out. Dec. 16: Soldiers of the Constellation Q.** Cincinnati rock band. Opening acts are **Blind Lake,** a local thrash-soul band, and **Autumn Coma,** a Flint experimental progressive-rock band. **Dec. 18: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Dec. 19: Edge from Falling.** Grand Rapids rock band. Opening acts are **Nothing until Now,** a Toledo pop-punk band, and **Plane to Barcelona,** a blues-rock trio. **Dec. 21: Your Best Friend.** Saginaw rock quartet. Opening acts are **Two Roads to Mexico,** a melodic emocore band from Ypsilanti formerly known as Dropjaw, and **Nightbringer,** a metal band. **Dec. 22: "Mittenfest Episode 3: Revenge of the Dance Party."** Headliner is **Bathgate & Pals,** an ad hoc ensemble led by local indie singer-songwriter Chris Bathgate. Opening acts are **The Mighty Narwhale** (see above), Detroit electronica singer-songwriter **Deastro,** and local electro-pop singer-songwriter **Charlie Slick. Dec. 23: Miss Amy.** Local acoustic ambient pop-rock trio led by singer-songwriter Amy Lynn Hudson. Opening act is **Elle & the Fonts,** the stage name of Elle Sawa, a Ferndale emo singer-songwriter who bills herself as "a horrible guitar player [who] likes to think she makes up for it through her exceptionally amusing stage presence and vocal performances." **Dec. 28: Chuck Damage.** This veteran Elbow Room DJ celebrates his birthday by spinning soul, ska, punk, and funk records. Opening acts are **The Gepetto Files** (see TC's) and **MHz,** an Ypsilanti punk band. **Dec. 29: Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." Opening acts are **Lightning Love!** (see Blind Pig) and **Third Coast Kings,** a local funk-soul instrumental quintet. **Dec. 30: The Ultrasounds.** Local futuristic retro-rock trio. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 31: Thunderbirds Are Now.** Detroit pop band. Opening acts are the Detroit-area indie pop-rock quartet **The Pop Project** and the Ferndale experimental rock band **Child Bite.** Also, DJs play dance music until 4 a.m.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to the South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., occasional Tues., & Wed., 8 p.m.–midnight; Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.** (except Dec. 24 & 31)**: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.** (except Dec. 19)**: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). **Every Thurs.** (11 p.m.–2 a.m.)**: "Late Night Reggae."** With DJ Billy the Kid. **Dec. 1: Los Gatos.** See above. **Dec. 7: Steve Richko Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by the dynamic young Detroit pianist Richko. **Dec. 8: Ben Janssen Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Ann Arbor–bred saxophonist Janssen, a recent U-M grad. **Dec. 11: The Cool Moose Orchestra.** Ensemble of local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glen Tucker. **Dec. 14: Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. **Dec. 15:** TBA. **Dec. 18: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 19: "Steppin' Out V: Charity Begins at Civic."** Ann Arbor Civic Theater singer-actors perform songs from holiday TV shows and preview songs from its upcoming production of *Bat Boy: The Musical.* See Events. **Dec. 21: The Paul Keller Trio & the Christmas Cabaret.** This local jazz ensemble led by bassist Keller is joined by 3 or 4 female vocalists for an evening of jazz Christmas standards and other holiday songs. **Dec. 22: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 28: Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke.** Local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 29: Tim Ries Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by this highly regarded young tenor and soprano jazz saxophonist, a Tecumseh native currently living in New York City. **Dec. 31:** TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **623–2070**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Thurs.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Dec. 1: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Live at PJ's. **Dec. 5: Dave Sharp & the Secret Seven.** Local jazz ensemble led by bassist Sharp. **Dec. 7 Lester Blues.** See above. **Dec. 8: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **Dec. 12: Cosmic Duo.** Jazz by the local duo of singer-guitarist Dan Orcutt and vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Dec. 14:** TBA. **Dec. 15: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 16: "Urban Cowgirl Cabaret."** Blues, folk, and country song-and-dance revue featuring 5 female vocalists backed by a quartet. 9 & 11 p.m. **Dec. 19: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See above. **Dec. 22: Lester Blues.** See above. **Dec. 26:** TBA. **Dec. 28: Lester Blues.** See above. **Dec. 29: Grievous Angel.** See above. **Dec. 31: Lester Blues.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Live bands TBA.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., & Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 1: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 4–6: Joyride.** Popular Flint dance band. **Dec. 7 & 8: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 11–13: Destiny.** Jackson-area band that plays Latin dance pop. **Dec. 14 & 15: Government Honey.** Detroit quartet that plays 70s dance rock. **Dec. 18–20: Soulstice.** Hard-driving dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 21 & 22: Scoot Magoo.** See above. **Dec. 26 & 27: Dave Hamilton Band.** Pop dance band led by saxophonist Hamilton. **Dec. 28, 29, & 31: Righteous.** Local folk-rock band. **Dec. 31** (in the ballroom)**: Newsmaker.** Motown party band.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, formerly known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. **764–7544**

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 6: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. 8:30–10:30 p.m.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Wed.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local

singer-guitarist. **Dec. 1 & 7–9: "Dance Night."** With a DJ TBA. **Dec. 14: One Love!** Local reggae band. **Dec. 15 & 16: "Dance Night."** See above. **Dec. 21: The Frontmen.** Detroit quartet that plays a mix of progressive rock and hip-hop. **Dec. 22, 28, & 29: "Dance Night."** See above. **Dec. 31: "Masquerade Ball New Year's Party."** With entertainment TBA.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Tues.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues., Wed., & Sat.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Dec. 7: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **Dec. 14: Lucas Paul Band.** See above. **Dec. 21 & 28: Kris K Band.** Local quartet led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Dec. 31: Lucas Paul Band.** See above.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 2: Jack Spack.** Acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups & downs of everyday life. **Dec. 9: The Royal Garden Trio.** Early jazz standards and Hot Club–style gypsy jazz by this local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Dec. 16: Chad Williams.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 23: The Flying Latini Brothers.** Country-flavored rock, along with some Tom Waits covers, by this local band fronted by singer-songwriter John Latini. **Dec. 30: Scott Thompson.** Acoustic alternative rock singer-songwriter from St. Clair Shores.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Dec. 4: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 11: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Dec. 18: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. & Fri., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Wed.: DJ Swerve.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Thurs. & Fri: DJ Equinox.** DJ spins dance records.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. **302–3687**

This dinner club features DJs Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room Annex

205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **487–5544**

This tavern next door to the Tap Room has suspended its music programming until early 2008 when it will have been absorbed into an expanded and remodeled Tap Room.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **483–4470**

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features an open mike on Mon., DJs on Tues. & Thurs., and dance bands Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Local solo pianist. **Every Mon.: Acoustic & Spoken Word Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians and wordslingers invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Jesse Passage. **Every Tues.: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take. Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 6)**: DJ Chill Will.** This DJ spins hip-hop and reggae records. **Dec. 1: Jam Samich.** Local blues-rock jam band. Opening acts are **Hullabaloo**, a local ska and 80s-style pop quintet, and **Deep Space Six** (see Club Above). **Dec. 5: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with 80s & 90s pop dance hits with **DJ B Girrrl. Dec. 6: "WEMU Battle of the Bands."** With **Common Misconception, Jasmine, Father Goldstein, The Ultrasounds,** and **Storms in May. Dec. 7: The Gepetto Files.** Idiosyncratic local marionette troupe that specializes in off-the-wall, post-punk explorations of American cultural archetypes that are simultaneously weird, hilarious, provocative, sophomoric, and haunting. Opening acts are **Mazinga,** a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll, and another band TBA. **Dec. 8: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are the 80s metal tribute band **Red, White, & Booze,** the Toledo industrial rock band **Mad Mordigan,** and the local alternative rock band **Descended from Thieves. Dec. 12: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **Dirty Damn Band,** an all-female indie pop drum 'n' bass duo from Toledo. **Dec. 14: Sik Sik Nation.** Local psychedelic-blues garage trio. Opening acts are **Todd Deatherage** (see Elbow Room), the Detroit R&B-inflected pop-punk quartet **Freer,** and **Cletan Clawson Experience,** a Detroit experimental rock trio fronted by singer-guitarist Clawson. **Dec. 15: Murder Mystery.** Indie rock quartet from Madison Heights. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 19: "She Bang!"** Ladies night karaoke. **Dec. 21: Ann Arbor Dub Project.** Local reggae-rock band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 22: "Open Mike Holiday Jam."** With the Ypsilanti electronica-jazz duo **October Babies,** the EMU student alternative-rock band **Big Slik,** and other bands TBA. **Dec. 26: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with 80s & 90s pop dance hits with **DJ B Girrrl. Dec. 28: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. Opening acts are **Paul's Big Radio,** a rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens, and **Brett Neulsen,** a solo acoustic blues singer-guitarist. **Dec. 29: Scotty Karate.** One-man honky-tonk rock 'n' roll band from Downriver whose CD *Keep It in the Teepee* is described by *CD Baby* as a collection of "intricately written songs and lyrics [that] pour from the heart with poetic sarcasm and leave a delicious aftertaste." Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 31: The Disregarded.** Self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville, Michigan, whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses, and rock 'n' roll energy. Opening acts are **DJ Chill Will** and a band TBA.

Underground

911 North University **763–4652**

This all-ages club in the Michigan League basement features live music Thurs., 8:30–11 p.m., and occasional Fri. & Sat., 9–11 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). No cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Dec. 7: Open Mike Night.** All U-M-affiliated performers invited; sign-up is at 7:45 p.m. 8:30–11:30 p.m. ■

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FOR ALL OF THIS MONTH'S COMICS SEE LISTINGS IN THIS ISSUE
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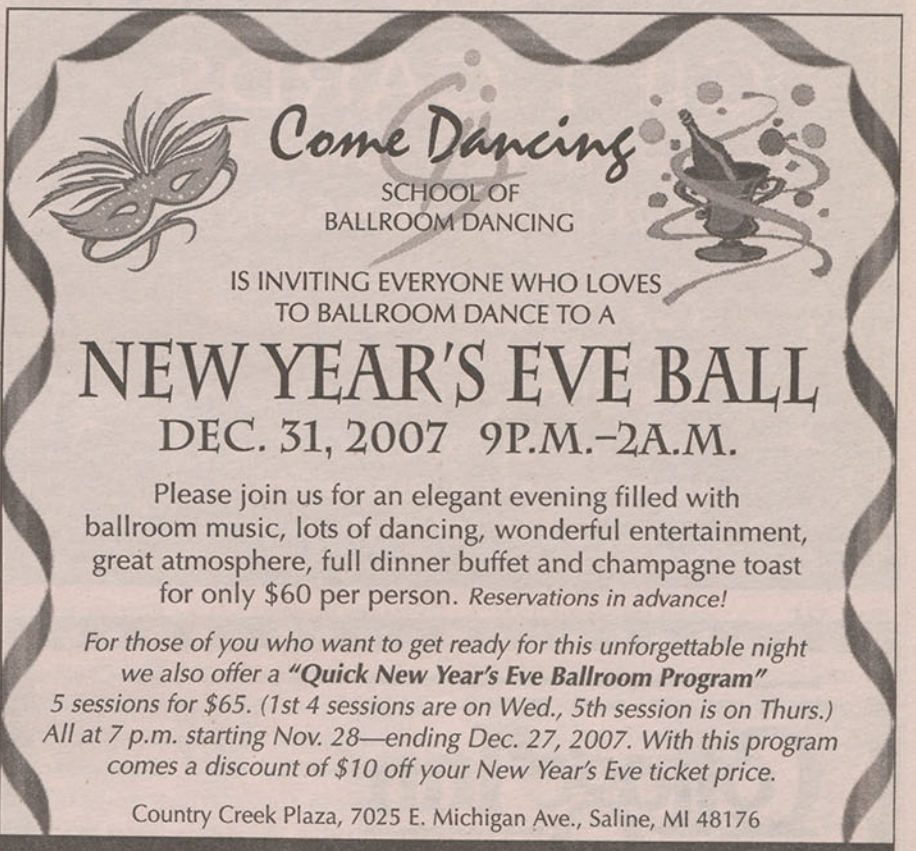
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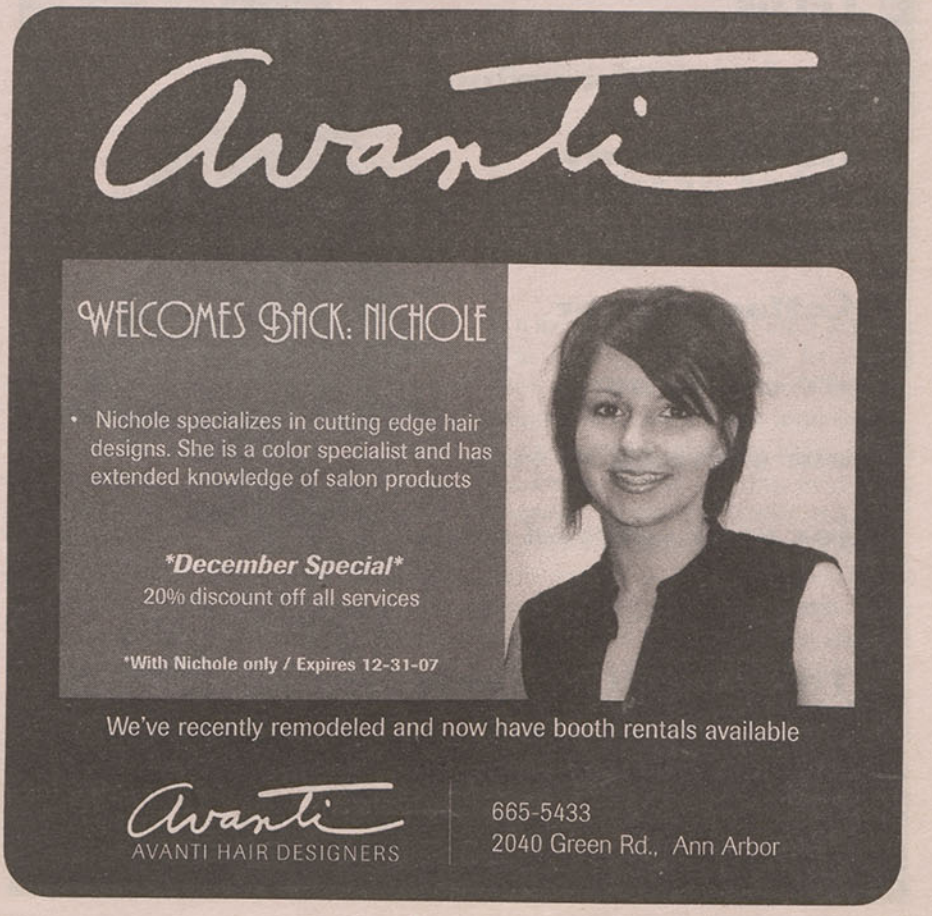
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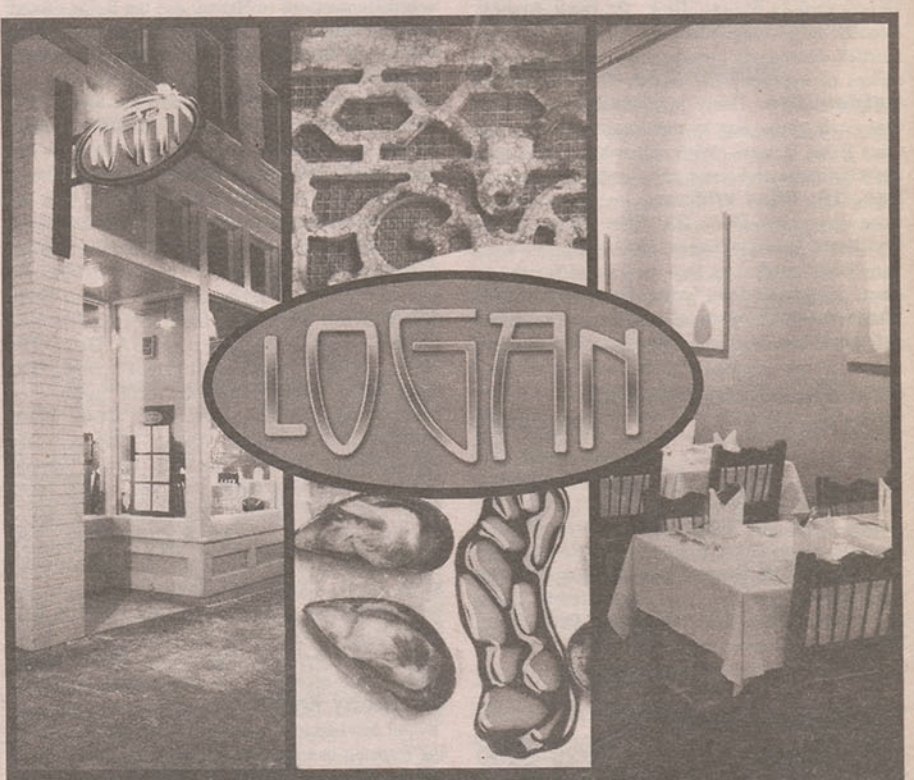

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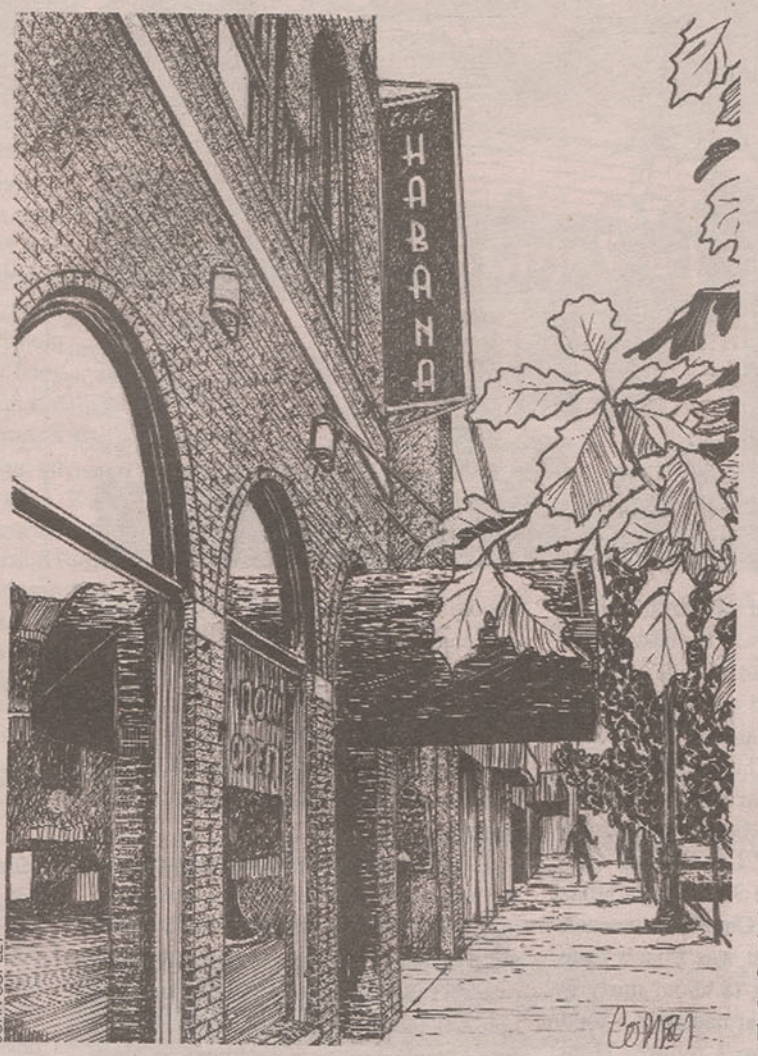
Cafe Habana

Impressionistic



JOHN COPLEY

Cafe Habana takes its cultural cues from Cuba in the 1930s—the cigar-smoking, hard-drinking Hemingway playground of casinos and swanky resorts. The new East Washington Street eatery evokes a Havana nightclub with a sensuous pastiche of faux-distressed walls, glamorous Art Deco posters, and twinkling mismatched chandeliers. At the far end of the long, narrow room are curved niches the color of the evening sky, each holding a single backlit vase of tropical lilies. It's loud, dark, and sexy. And while the cigars of vintage Cuba have been banished (cigarettes only, and just at the bar), there's still plenty of old-fashioned alcohol, especially the high-proof rum and tequila essential to mojitos, daiquiris, and margaritas.

Of course there's food to go along with it—large and small plates, covering breakfast to late dinner. Like the decor, the menu is more impressionistic than literal, a freewheeling pan-Latin selection that ranges far from its namesake. At my first dinner, we barely touched the island's shores, starting with chips (thin, salty, and very fresh) and three too-tame salsas (green, red, and a fresh *pico de gallo*) that, except for the absence of chili heat, would have been at home in any Central American restaurant. From across the table, I stole bits of my husband's perfectly grilled hanger steak topped with bold *chimichurri*, the olive-oil-garlic-parsley sauce of Argentina. The sweet charred corn on the cob with lime and grated cheese alongside would feel familiar to anyone who has ever had Mexican street-vendor *elote*. My own main course, a Baja burrito of *norte-americano* girth, was loaded with shrimp and mahimahi, but the seasoning lacked focus, and the overall effect was bland. The accompanying black beans and rice, though, seemed authentically Cuban (or at least Miami Cuban, which is the only version I know) and were very good indeed.

So I aimed to go more Cuban on the next visit. This trip was marred by several just-opened-restaurant gaffes, like the stack of dripping wet plates the server brought to the table for our shared starters. Once I got over that, the appetizers were a hit, particularly the tacos *al pastor*, soft corn tortillas piled with a savory braised pork offset by sweet bits of pineapple—more fusion than Cuban and a little messy, but delicious. Excellent, too, were the crispy chicken croquettes, although the sauce needs rethinking. Tight little empanadas filled with spinach came close, but they suffered from a dull, dry pastry covering.

At least this time we were starting to get with the Havana theme, especially after a tall mojito. In that spirit, our main courses had to include the Cuban classic *ajiaco*, a long-simmered stew with fall-apart beef and pork and all sorts of veggies—a short length of corn on the cob, plantain, taro, and boniato (a cream-colored sweet potato). But as presented here, this is a dish in search of a personality, and it reminded me how hard it must be to master Cuban subtleties. As Mary Urrutia Randelman writes in *Memories of a Cuban Kitchen*, "Cuban dishes, although highly seasoned, are not spicy." This ajiaco was neither, but did have a bonus accompaniment in the form of a wedge of *yuca* bread, which resembles a savory scone. If you're in the mood for a stew, I'd steer you to the *ropa vieja* ("old clothes"), shredded flank steak braised in a tomato sauce; its flavors were better concentrated.

On Cuban night, we also shared shrimp skewers around the table. This proved among the best dishes on the menu, with plump, pan-seared shrimp threaded on sugar cane, topped with a sweet-hot chili-mango glaze and served with garlic spinach and mashed boniato. The *criollo* (Creole) fried chicken was, according to the menu, marinated in garlic *mojo* sauce before frying; that hadn't kept the breast meat from drying out, but the dark meat was succulently flavorful. On this plate, the side dishes—more mojo sauce (once I reminded the server to bring it), crisp twice-fried *tostones* plantain chips, and fluffy saffron-infused rice—made for a good mix, even if the mojo was too paste-like and needed more citrus balance.

The sides didn't go as well for our six-year-old guest, who has the most refined palate of any kid I've ever met. She ordered a steak from the children's menu and pronounced it excellent (that hanger again), but she said the beans and rice were awful. She was right: hers were oversalted and had an acrid, too-smoky taste, while the rice was dry and crusty. Were these Sunday-night leftovers, or did the staff not care what went on the child's plate?

Morning here has its own beverage—coffee, whether as *café cubano* (a thimble of sweetened espresso), *cortadito* (cubano "cut in half" by steamed milk), or *café con leche* (with still more milk). Like some of the food, the coffee was on the anemic side. But I like the $3 basic Miami breakfast—toasted Cuban bread and café con leche—to jump-start the day. Among the more substantial breakfast plates, I'd go with the *huevos a la flamenco* with a robust pea–chorizo sausage hash alongside a lusciously crunchy-outside-creamy-inside potato croquette (although the huevos I ordered over easy arrived sunny side up).

I had to gear up for a lunchtime megabomb of a Cuban sandwich that layers pork over pork (slow-roasted chunks on thin-sliced ham) with Swiss cheese and pickles on a white roll. Most sources say a *cubano* should include yellow mustard, some say it may never have mayonnaise, and others say it can have both—which it does at Cafe Habana. The defining feature is that it is smoosh cooked in a flat sandwich press. It's a good sandwich, and oddly the most memorable part is the sour pow! of the pickle against all that meat. The carnivore sandwich bested the pickle-less vegetarian version, whose black bean, avocado, and cheese filling went mushy in midbite.

Sugar-crusted churros, the traditional Spanish cruller-like doughnuts, are offered for breakfast and dessert, but in my postlunch encounter they were excessively oily. My pick for dessert would be the coconut turnovers, with which I was instantly smitten. Was it for their unrelenting richness—pastry half-moons stuffed with creamy grated coconut—or the ramekin of warm velvety dark chocolate dipping sauce? Who cares? After having one each from a plate of three, my husband and I sparred with forks over the last.

Service was haphazard though not disastrous on several visits, all not long after the cafe opened. At breakfast it was simply peculiar: a woman came to the table and said, "I'm not your server, but I'll take your drink order," and then returned with our coffees. A few minutes later she came back and said, "I'm not your server, but I'll take your food order," and then returned with the food. So she continued to the end of the meal. Considering that she wasn't our waitress, she did a good job of getting us what we wanted.

Cafe Habana is well conceived as a tall nostalgia cocktail. The service and kitchen are still uneven, though the former is quickly finding its way and the latter shows strength in a number of dishes—notably the *churrasco* chimichurri, ropa vieja, sugar-cane shrimp, tacos al pastor, croquettes, and coconut turnovers. All signs point to a strong future. But even now, I'm happy on dark winter days to indulge in a tropical fantasy and step back to a time when Hemingway tapped out masterpieces on a Royal typewriter and Guantánamo was just a bay.

Cafe Habana
211 East Washington **332–6046**

Mon.–Fri. 7 a.m.–2 a.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–2 a.m., Sun. 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Kitchen closes Mon.–Thurs. 11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. midnight, Sun. 10 p.m.

Breakfast $3–$9, soups & salads $4–$8, appetizers $3–$7, sandwiches $6–$9, lunch entrees $7–$11, dinner entrees $11–$19, desserts $3–$5

Fully disability friendly

La Zamaan Cafe

Comeback

In the summer of 2001, I had a few days to improvise a dinner party for a dozen or so out-of-town guests. Then we thought we'd invite a few local friends. And a few more. As the numbers grew, I decided to enlist catering help from Shahrayar, whose light cuisine and many vegetarian dishes made it one of my favorite restaurants. I called the owner, Ali Hijazi, and we put together a menu. When I went to pick up the food, the staff not only had neatly packaged and labeled everything but also had carefully assembled garnishes for each dish. Hijazi asked how each would be displayed and gave me suggestions on how to present it. This was clearly a guy who cared—about the food and about the customer. That night, Shahrayar's cooking was a huge success. One

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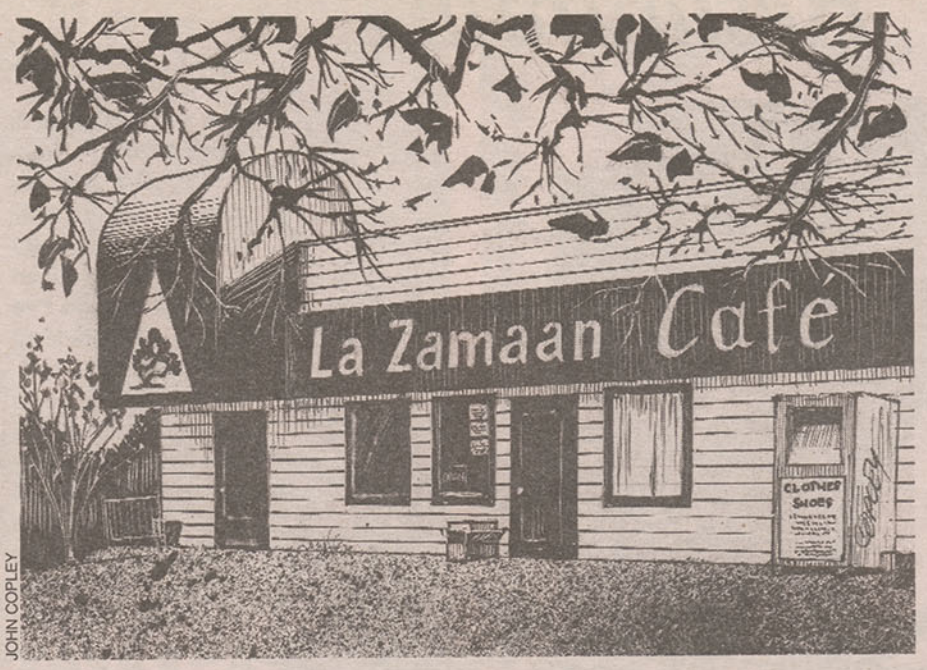


JOHN COPLEY

guest, an Egyptian grad student, pulled me aside and raved that it was the best Middle Eastern food he'd had in five years in America. But it turned out to be the first and last time I used Shahrayar as a caterer; within a few months it had closed.

Now, after a six-year hiatus, Ali Hijazi has returned to Ann Arbor restaurateuring with the opening of La Zamaan Cafe north of Briarwood on State Street. Hijazi and co-owner Hassan Chabbani have taken over the space that was Pilar's Cafe, expanding the seating to about thirty by converting part of what had been a food-prep area during Pilar's tenure. Tight, cozy, and spare, its walls hung with nostalgic photos of Beirut, this feels like the kind of unexpected hideaway that's so much fun to discover—especially when the food is this great. When I walked into the shop to pick up my first takeaway order, Hijazi recognized his old customer with a "Hello dear!" as if we'd just seen each other the day before. (I didn't mention that in the interim I'd become a restaurant reviewer.)

I'd like to think it took one meal to move La Zamaan to the top of my list of local Middle Eastern favorites, but in all honesty it took one bite. I love the *karnabeet*, a simple dish of deep-fried cauliflower florets over lettuce and diced tomatoes with a sesame-tahini dressing. Even if other local Middle Eastern places do cauliflower, this is the only one I've found that does it this well. It exemplifies what sets this food apart: exquisite freshness and a traditional, no-shortcuts approach to Lebanese cooking.

The menu is a balance of unusual dishes like the karnabeet and standards of Middle Eastern cuisine. The generous meze appetizer is a selection of the familiar—falafel, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, and baba ghanoush—though in La Zamaan's hands, the basics become standouts. In the falafel, crisp disks of ground chickpeas are seasoned with classic Lebanese spices like cumin and cinnamon and deep fried. Fresh, tender grape leaves are wrapped around rice and diced tomatoes to form a narrow cylinder. The lemony-smooth hummus and smoky-creamy baba ghanoush—puree of eggplant with garlic and tahini—made me want to rip apart fresh flat bread and scoop up these spreads. Unfortunately, as at so many Middle Eastern places, the bread here is listless—cut-up pitas supplied in plastic baggies.

All of the above dishes are meatless, but the vegetarian has even more grazing territory here, such as *mujaddarah,* a hearty plate of big brown lentils and long-grain rice served with a thick yogurt made in house (I like it with garlic sauce, too). A fine complement to mujaddarah is a fattoush salad that mixes romaine with cucumbers, tomatoes, and crisp pita chips, and tosses it all with a lemon–olive oil dressing with a dose of mint and sumac. The tabbouleh is sensational—though it didn't hurt that I first had it when tomatoes were still in season—with big but balanced flavors and textures like finely diced green onions, parsley, and a toothsome bulgur.

Among meat offerings, chicken takes the lead. Most, including chicken shawarma and *tawook*, are available on a platter with rice and hummus, or as a stuffed pita sandwich. The tawook works better as part of a platter with its marinated chunks of boneless chicken threaded on a skewer and grilled. I like the shawarma as a sandwich, here a tight bundle of tender crusty bits of slow-grilled meat seasoned with Lebanese spices, coupled with the tang of hot-sour pickles and the unmistakable kick of La Zamaan's commendable garlic sauce. (The staff make the sandwiches with the same pita they cut up for those little baggies, but here it's very lightly toasted, boosting both flavor and texture.)

In shish *kafta,* ground beef is mixed with onions and spices, formed into an oval patty, and grilled. Of course, there is kibbe, too; Mediterranean cooking doyenne Paula Wolfert notes that kibbe has been called "the masterpiece of the Middle Eastern table." Seasoned minced beef is surrounded in a shell of bulgur wheat and deep fried so that the outside has a crisp texture similar to that of falafel, but when you bite into it, there's that savory meat filling.

I may sound giddy, but on three visits, the only thing I could find fault with was an oversweetened lemonade (La Zamaan has since opened a fresh-squeezed-juice bar, which I have yet to try) and flat bread that isn't quite up to the high standards of the rest of the food. I guess another point of contention for me would be the space: even though it's attractive and I enjoy the soft Middle Eastern music in the background, it felt too claustrophobic to eat there. Otherwise, this is fresh, well-prepared, and interesting fare, as well as a good value for the money: for instance, the top price for a sandwich is $5.50, and La Zamaan throws in a free baklava on pick-up orders.

As I was leaving one night, I glanced back at the cafe. A customer was greeting Hijazi with a big bear hug. Obviously I'm not the only one pleased to visit the new La Zamaan, where Shahrayar old-timers can rekindle delicious sense memories, and newcomers can discover a real treat.

La Zamaan Cafe
2285 South State **761–5800**

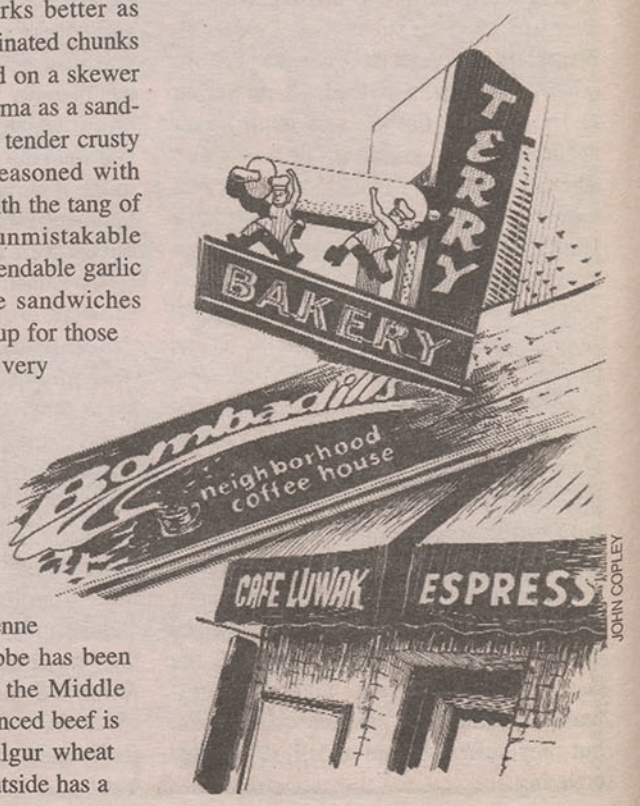
Mon.–Thurs. 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Closed Sun.

Appetizers $3.50–$9.95, soups & salads $2.75–$7.95, sandwiches $3.75–$5.50, entree platters $7.50–$11.95, desserts $1–$3.50

Fully disability friendly

Quick Bites

If you are dreading the mall fast-food and mass merchandise of the mandatory shopping month, consider heading toward Ypsilanti. Not only is there a collection of quirky stores that boast one-of-a-kind finds, but the two main shopping areas,



JOHN COPLEY

The Zingerman's Times

©2007 DSE Inc. December 2007 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a thousand flavors

Mozzarella Myrtle Braids Spotted on the Southside

Rarely available outside Cilento, Campania in Southern Italy, beautiful and fragrant Mozzarella Myrtle Braids are being handmade at Zingerman's Creamery. Investigators discovered that the braid should be baked for about ten minutes at 350 degrees. The strings are then cut, the myrtle removed, and the warm cheese dressed with olive oil, salt and pepper. Chunks of Paesano bread from the Bakehouse can then be delectably dipped into the melted mozzarella. Sources recommend picking up a braid from Zingerman's Creamery on Plaza Dr. to serve as an extra special holiday appetizer.

Roadhouse Goes 'Round the Country to Ring in the New Year

Monday, Dec. 31 • 7 pm • $55
Beverages served a la carte
• Family style-seating

Zingerman's Roadhouse celebrates the new year with a special dinner and discussion highlighting dishes from the "melting pot" of traditions around the country! Sources say to expect oyster bisque, lobster Thermidor, Delmonico steak with Maryland blue crab and a trio of creme brulee for dessert.

Times readers dining at the Roadhouse on New Year's Eve (but who don't sign up for the special dinner) will also be able to order items from this special menu. Reserve your seats now! Call 734.663.3663.

Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

zingerman's mail order makes holiday dreams come true

Scientists recently examined the sleep habits of food lovers across the country and discovered that when tucked snug in their beds, an overwhelming number of them have visions of delicious gifts from Zingerman's Mail Order dancing in their heads.

When further research uncovered the the three items flavor fanatics are dreaming of most, Zingerman's Bacon of the Month Club was right at the very top. Every month a new bacon is delivered by post, ready to take the gift recipient on a sizzling flavor voyage. Bacon-phile Brad Hedeman confessed recently that "the club has given me the chance to spread my crispy wings and really start living."

The beginner Cheeses of the World gift box also appeared on the wish list. Experts say Zingerman's takes the time to discover, age, care for and cut at least five pieces of cheese from different countries. This beginner assortment focuses on great, well-aged versions of more familiar cheeses.

Food lovers from coast to coast are also fantasizing about Zingerman's Holiday Bread Box, featuring the season's four most popular loaves baked exclusively at Zingerman's Bakehouse—Farm Bread, Cranberry Pecan, Roadhouse Bread, and Chocolate Sourdough.

Rumor has it that it's easy to have these dreams delivered. Just call 888.636.8162 or log onto zingermans.com.

It's not too late! Order from Zingerman's Mail Order by Dec. 21 to make full-flavored dreams a holiday reality.

Holiday Gift Fair at Zingerman's Delicatessen

Thursday, Dec. 6 • 4-7 pm

Free! Call 734.663.DELI for reservations.

Check out www.zingermansdeli.com for info about more events!

Gifts from zingerman's deli are something to celebrate!

Times readers who need more help shopping for the fussiest foodies on their lists are invited to the Deli's annual Holiday Gift Fair on Dec. 6. This special event features displays with great gift ideas ranging from classic favorites to the unusual and exotic. Guests are encouraged to taste everything and ask lots of questions. The event is free, but reservations are strongly recommended.

Zingerman's Deli retail manager Gauri Thergaonkar recently told *Times* reporters what she's most excited about this holiday season: fabulously flavorful gift baskets available at the Deli.

Sources anticipate some of the most popular gift baskets available at the Deli will include the Coffee Connoisseur featuring three great coffees, a French Press and all the fixins; Tea Time featuring a Bodum teapot, black, green and herbal teas, honey and shortbread; and the American All-Stars, complete with Californian olive oil, Tupelo honey from Florida and wild rice from Minnesota.

Gift basket prices range from $50 to $450 for the ultimate, Everything but the Kitchen Sink assortment, featuring everything needed for a well-stocked, full-flavored kitchen.

zingerman's bakes the yuletide bright

Eyewitnesses from Ann Arbor's southside report a flurry of activity at Zingerman's Bakehouse, where folks are working around the clock to bake up a bounty of full-flavored seasonal favorites, including such old-fashioned holiday treats as **Panettone** and **Stollen**, available only in December.

The Panettone is naturally leavened with no commercial yeast, baked up fluffy with butter, eggs, vanilla bean, candied fruits, fresh oranges, and almonds. Made according to traditional methods, the loaves have been spotted hanging upside down to cool in order to keep the dough from sinking into itself.

Reports indicate that the traditional German Stollen is one of Ann Arbor's favorite holiday treats and the Bakehouse delivers an incredible rendition made with sweet butter, rum, candied lemon and orange peel.

Additionally, the Bakehouse offers an exotic take on a classic favorite–the **Gingerbread Coffee Cake**, featuring an adventurous array of ingredients, including crystallized and ground ginger from Asia, a bit of brewed coffee, real vanilla from Mexico, Indonesian cinnamon, cloves from the Malacca Islands, and Balinese long pepper. Get these goodies while you can! Stop by the Bakehouse now to stock up on these treats!

Give the Gift of BAKE!

Times special offer!

Gift cards for hands-on baking classes are available at all Zingerman's businesses or by calling 734.761.7255.

holiday blend back in time for the holidays!

"We like to produce a coffee that has a very full body," says Zingerman's Coffee Company's Roastmaster Allen Leibowitz about the new, limited edition Holiday Blend. For 2007, the coffee company started with a rich, lively African Malawi combined with Costa Rican and Peruvian coffees for balanced acidity. Sources describe the flavor as "rich and fruity with a surprising brightness." Available at Zingerman's Deli and Next Door Coffeeshop, Bakehouse and Roadhouse, as well as through Zingerman's Mail Order, while supplies last!

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Restaurant Reviews *continued*

Depot Town and downtown, also host similarly iconoclastic neighborhood cafes. (As a side note, I could get spoiled by the parking here.)

Bombadill's coffeehouse is at the center of Ypsilanti's best downtown stretch of historic Michigan Avenue. This soft old quilt of a room is done up with ochre walls, exposed brick, and wooden floors. Picture windows bring in light and motion, framing the streetscape out front and the urban pocket park next door but reminding you of the contrast with the outside—and that you're the lucky one inside. This is the essence of an unchain coffee shop where moms with toddlers or retired people or loners with laptops can come, have a bite, and hang out. At lunch on Wednesdays it's positively ethereal, with a harpist providing live background music from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. The menu is short but sufficient: coffee, tea, sandwiches, soups, and sweets.

Those made-daily soups are good medicine for cold weather. On one visit, I went for a cup of the creamy potato-herb. On another, I had Bombadill's take on a traditional combo: a cup of Provençal tomato cream soup alongside a grilled cheese sandwich that layers Swiss, provolone, and Cheddar between thick slices of herb bread. The place does all the usual fancy coffees, with which you might want a house-baked cookie or a piece of the shockingly crimson red-velvet cake, which is made down the street at **Terry Bakery** (likely the oldest continuously operating bakery in Washtenaw County).

Just across from Bombadill's is a strip of interesting stores: stunning secondhand pottery in Bowerbird Mongo; well-priced scarves, handbags, and dresses at Studio Glamour Fashions; new and used musical instruments at Fast Eddie's; oddball glassware and such at Look in the Attic; and screen-printed T-shirts at VG Kids.

A few blocks over in Depot Town, there's more shopping at Quinn's Essentials home furnishings; Apple Annie's and Jim MacDonald's vintage clothing and antiques; Cheeky Monkey teddy bears; and a RealKidz girls' clothing showroom set to open in December. **Cafe Luwak** is a good stopover here. Like Bombadill's, Luwak is handcrafted, cozy, and welcoming. I like the big half-Reuben sandwich, and the coffees are very good. Cafe Luwak has desserts, but I can't resist the **Queen of Hearts Bakery** a few doors down and what they call their Kit-Kat knockoff—a crispy peanut butter layer topped with creamy chocolate mousse and covered in dark chocolate ganache.

Bombadill's, 217 West Michigan, Ypsilanti, 544–5080. Cafe Luwak, 42 East Cross, Ypsilanti, 482–8050.

—Bix Engels

Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

table talk

Debi Scroggins says the aha! moment came when she was in Pennsylvania, scouting for new sites for **Bearclaw Coffee Co.** "The rents out east were so astronomical that specialty coffee just couldn't support it," says Scroggins, Bearclaw's president. So what about the coffee without the rent—in the form of a traveling espresso truck?

By November, Bearclaw had three orange Dodge Sprinters working Washtenaw County. I chased one down on Jackson Road one Friday and caught up to franchisee Gregg Horn in the parking lot at the BMW dealership—one of his regular stops. A former heavy-equipment operator, Horn said he couldn't believe how well the business had taken off in the four weeks he'd had the van on the road. Weekdays from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. he runs down Jackson from Baker to Maple; evenings and weekends he hits sporting events and festivals, selling hot and cold drinks, bagels, pastries, and muffins.

Horn's van underwent a $25,000 retrofit that includes a stainless-steel galley kitchen and state-of-the art coffee machine that lets him pull 300 espressos an hour. There's also a touch-screen register that keeps track of inventory and speeds payment. Scroggins says the next generation of vans will be fitted with global positioning so that customers can follow a van's location online and email orders before the next stop. She expects to expand the fleet to the high-rent East Coast market and beyond, and to have a van on the floor of the international franchise expo in Washington, D.C., next spring.

The indie **Portofino Coffee,** across from Westgate shopping center, also put a van on the road this fall. Jason DeWolfe teamed with Portofino owner JoAnn Campbell to buy an outfitted GM utility truck from Colorado Coffee in Howell when it went out of business. Portofino spiffed up the vehicle with the company logo and put it on the road with DeWolfe as driver-barista. Now he hits office buildings like 414 South Main and construction sites such as Skyline High School with a full range of coffee drinks, frappes, and pastries. DeWolfe is on the road weekdays from 6 a.m. till noon and also works all the Michigan home games from a prime spot at the corner of Stadium and Main. A big chunk of the proceeds from those sales goes to the Pioneer Athletic Booster Club.

—B.E.

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

ISO adventure, excitement, discovery—best shared by two. **DWPJF,** 56, seeks widowed/DWPM, 55–65, who is educated, open-minded, caring, and fun-loving. ☎5722✍

Let's have some fun. I'm 42, brown hair, brown eyes. I enjoy dancing, going to concerts, and having fun in life. Looking for my special man. ☎5711✍

Slim, healthy, educated, thoughtful, liberal A2 woman in search of a good man/partner, approximately 50 years old. ☎5708✍

Seeking marriage and family, 40-ish female, no kids, never married, likes pets, home renovation, and new experiences. Serious and sincere only please. ☎5707✍

Ready to start living a happy, healthy, loving life with a slim, bright, pretty **SWPF**? Then please respond NOW! Seeking kind, intelligent, caring SWPM ready to embrace life. ☎5713✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Highly educated, foreign-born American, semiretired **SWF,** 5'2", NS, ND, ISO mentally and emotionally healthy gentleman friend, in his early 70s. ☎5668✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, health, laughing, and more. Loyal, honest, and giving. Feeler of rocks, trees, and energy. ☎5630✍

Men Seeking Women

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SWCM, 54, friendly, curious, active in A2, likes movies, walks, dances, volunteering, ISO active Catholic SWPF for LTR, for fun, local happenings. ☎5726✍

DWM, 54, good looking, 6'+, liberal, educated, meditator, seeks spiritual partner. You only must love yourself. ☎5723✍

Shy country boy needs someone to share my life with. I'm a slim **SWM,** 39, 5'7". Looking for an understanding, kind-hearted SWF with family values, who enjoys the country, quiet evenings, and surprises. ☎5724✍

SWM, 46, loves to play games, uncanny humor, tall, trim, loves cheap coffee, animals, educated, great to talk to, ISO proman, truly seeking, optimistic female. ☎5725✍

SAPM, 60+, NS, ND, 5'6", young looking, fit, home owner, healthy, romantic; love travel, yoga, veg. cooking, cuddles. ISO SA/WF, any age, for active fun, LTR, home-buddy, simple lifestyles. ☎5721✍

Eyes blue, brown, or hazel: one dollar.
Short, medium, or tall: one dollar.
Age 40–55: one dollar.
Smarts and sense of humor: priceless.
☎5716✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. ☎5715✍

Time for fun! NYC native with Midwestern heart, 50s. Consultant/liberal talk show host. Great kisser. ISO happy, thin/average contemporary woman with a great smile. ☎5687✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5704✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

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Women Seeking Women

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Men Seeking Men

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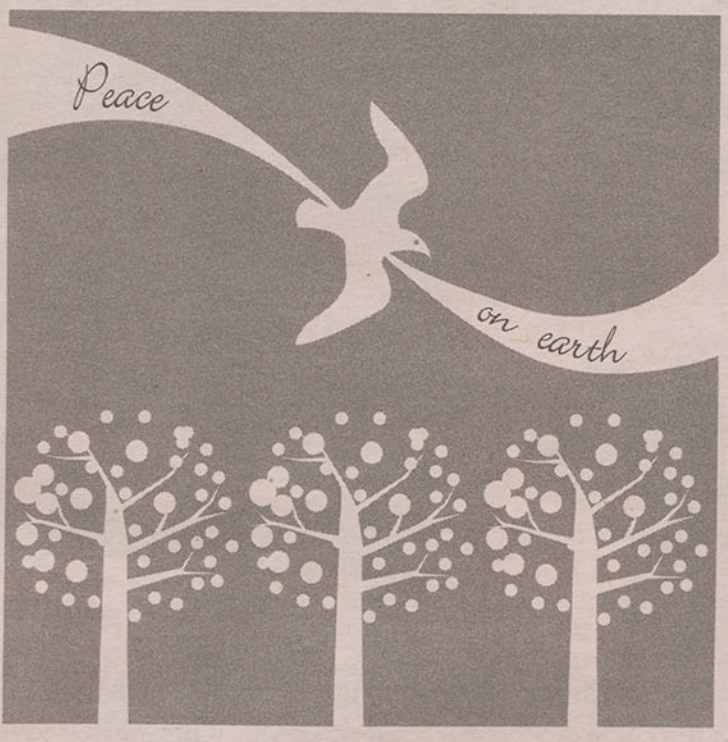

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 127? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

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SALINE—Washburn Residence. Classic historic 4-bedroom home. Well maintained and updated on beautiful lot across from Wilderness Park. $279,000. Call Jim Levleit, (734) 429–5262. Century 21 Brookshire.

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EAGLE RIDGE CONDO—Two-bedroom, 2½-bath city condo, end unit, nature site in Ann Arbor. Superb feng shui. $190,000. Call Marjorie, (734) 635–1881. Century 21 Brookshire.

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Bellanina Guest House—Top floor, private entrance, 4-room suite. Across from Kerrytown. King bed, full bath, cable, DSL, kitchenette. Includes parking. $155/night, $875/wk. Some blackout dates. www.bellanina.com, (734) 476–0101.

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Commercial for Rent/Lease

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350 sq. ft., soundproof room with fireplace, $525 plus taxes and utilities. 429–9459.

400+ sq. ft., currently *dental lab,* $525 plus taxes and utilities. 429–9459.

Vacation Rental

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Residential and Commercial Properties
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Ann Arbor 505 E. Huron #504. Fabulous high rise condo. Beautiful southern views from 5th floor. 2 bedrooms, 2 full tile baths, study/den, covered parking and additional storage. Walk to downtown. $385,000. #2715187

Ann Arbor 2630 Englave. Magnificent home on gorgeous 1 acre wooded lot. Beautiful features, cherry kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, paneled study, hardwood floors. $830,000. #2715674

Chelsea Creekside Court. Phase II. Phase-I sold out! Ranch and 1st floor master plans, striking designs. Quiet location, walk to downtown. Priced from the low $200,000's.

Ann Arbor 2116 Brockman Blvd. Stately 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick Tudor in Burns Park sits atop a hill surrounded by maure trees and perennial gardens. Lovely screened porch, hardwood and new paint. $495,000. #2715419

Ann Arbor 5484 Meadowcrest Dr. Extraordinary 15,000 sq. ft. home on 12 acres in Superior Twp. Luxurious indoor pool, exercise room, sauna. 1st floor master. Ponds, waterfalls, no expense spared! $2,775,000. #2715356

Ann Arbor 1539 Ardmoor. Adorable brick ranch on Ann Arbor's desirable West Side. 2 large bedrooms, tiled bath, great fenced backyard, updates. $192,000. #2715693

Dexter 3653 Preserve Dr. Gorgeous custom brick 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath in The Preserve. Gourmet cherry/granite kitchen, study with built-ins. Landscaped 1.5 acres. Incredible finished lower level with pool. $629,000. #2713994

Ann Arbor 2525 Country Club. Magnificent 7 acre estate with 700 ft. of Huron River frontage. Over 18,000 sq. ft., guest and boat house. Unequaled in quality and location. $6,750,000. #2712434

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Ann Arbor Charming 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch with 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, finished lower level and many updates! Close to Pioneer High School and U of M Stadium. $199,000. #2713542

Ann Arbor Multi-level, bright contemporary 3 bedroom home with 2.5 baths. Open floor plan with soaring ceilings, spacious feeling. Large deck with private views of nature. $254,900. #2711220

Canton Stately home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 1st floor master suite and 2-story great room. Hardwood floors, center island, cherry kitchen. 3-car garage and much more! $455,000. #2714579

Ann Arbor Delightful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with huge four season sunroom with beautiful nature views, gas fireplace. Lots of storage. Parking space in lower level. $225,000. #2702041

Ann Arbor Stunning near town condo with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, cathedral ceilings, many updates. Finished lower level. Feels like brand new. $259,000. #2715780

Ann Arbor Incredible home with 3 bedooms, 3.5 baths, Brazilian cherry floors, cathedral ceilings, huge 1st floor master suite, gourmet kitchen, and complete apartment in lower level. $625,000. #2711039

Ypsilanti Meticulously maintained 3 bedroom home on 1.64 acres with mature trees and lilac hedge. Huge kitchen, family room, living room. Wood floors, new windows and roof. $235,000. #2703780

Ann Arbor Inviting 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 1 acre with many updates. New kitchen and sunroom. Family room has skylights and wood-burning fireplace. Deck with nice views. $310,000. #2714125

Ypsilanti Very special 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home featuring 2-story great room that overlooks acres of nature. Hardwood throughout first floor, granite countertops. $750,000. #2715083

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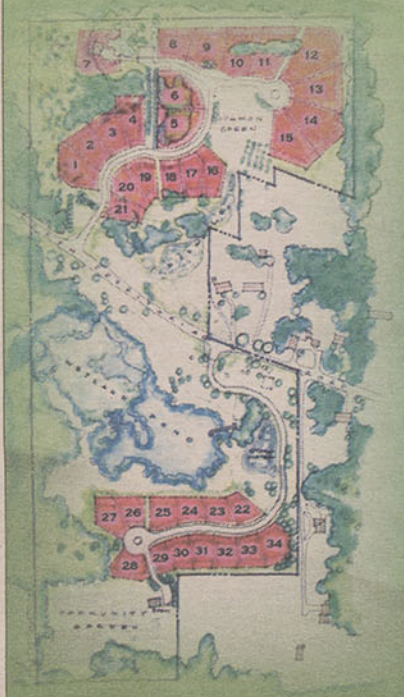

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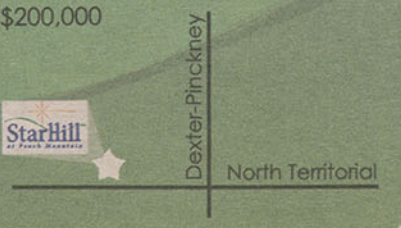

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Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

www.arborweb.com

On the Cover: Truly spectacular five-bedroom, five-bath custom home nestled on a serene 2.2-acre parcel just west of town. Amenities include dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional-grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxurious master suite, outdoor pool, and five-car garage. 2285 Estates Ct., Ann Arbor. $1,100,000. Matt Dejanovich, Real Estate One, 476-7100.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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Lawton School Lovely and modern 3 bedroom, 2 full bath ranch home with hardwood floors throughout. Cathedral ceiling in great room with gas fireplace. Finished basement. Fenced backyard. $199,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Lakewood Elem. Great location- 5 minutes to downtown and I-94. Ranch with full finished lower level. 3 bedrooms with wood floors, updated bath, sunny large eat-in kitchen, fireplace. New concrete drive! $219,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Ann Arbor Impressive Cape Cod with 2,180 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 1st floor master, large oak kitchen. Formal dining, 2-story great room with ceiling height windows. Full lower level. Great views. $247,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Burns Park Delightful Cape Cod with old world charm. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 fireplaces, beautiful updated kitchen, hardwood floors, new windows. 2-car garage, fenced yard. $249,900. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

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Pioneer High Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath with 2,268 sq. ft. Oak kitchen with dinette, wood floors and doorwall to a great backyard with brick patio. Master with Jacuzzi and walk-in closet. Landscaped. $257,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Logan School Cul-de-sac location, peaceful backyard. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with 1,900 + 600 sq. ft. in finished lower level with 2 egress windows and full bath with Jacuzzi tub. New roof, paint and carpeting. $276,500. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Foxfire Sub Modern 4 bedroom + study, 3.5 bath colonial. Formal living with cathedral ceiling. Oak, island kitchen, dinette with bay window. 2,158 +1,000 sq. ft. in finished lower level with egress window, bedroom and full bath. Deck, landscaped. $284,900. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Ann Arbor Quality 2,546 sq. ft., 4 bedroom + study on quiet cul-de-sac. Wood floors, new carpet, paint, roof and updated granite kitchen. Bay windows in formal living/dining. Finished lower level. $279,900. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Thuston School Delightful 4 bedroom + study home surrounded by beautiful mature trees on a 1.16 acre lot. 2,010 sq. ft., hardwood floors, new windows and roof, updated kitchen and baths. Finished lower level. $320,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Logan School Open views and woods! Modern Cape Cod features spectacular great room with floor to ceiling window. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 1st floor master suite next to large home office. Finished walkout "au pair" apartment. 3,650 +/- sq. ft. $373,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Logan School
Beautiful 3,134 sq. ft. home in peaceful location with pond views. 4 bedrooms plus study, cherry kitchen with granite and wood floor. Luxury master suite with bonus room. Daylight lower level. $483,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

Glennborough
Wooded setting with open views. Luxury home with 4,427 sq. ft., 2-story foyer and family room. Modern, gourmet cherry kitchen. Luxury master suite with den, 2 staircases. 9 ft. daylight lower level. $875,000. ***Call ShiaoLing at 604.7000 for more info!***

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OVERLOOKS PARK! $140,000
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FINISHED BASEMENT! $107,500
Nearly 1600 SF of living area. 3 BR. Stylish décor w/new Berber carpet. Kitchen with breakfast bar. 2nd floor laundry room. Large deck.

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Business Review
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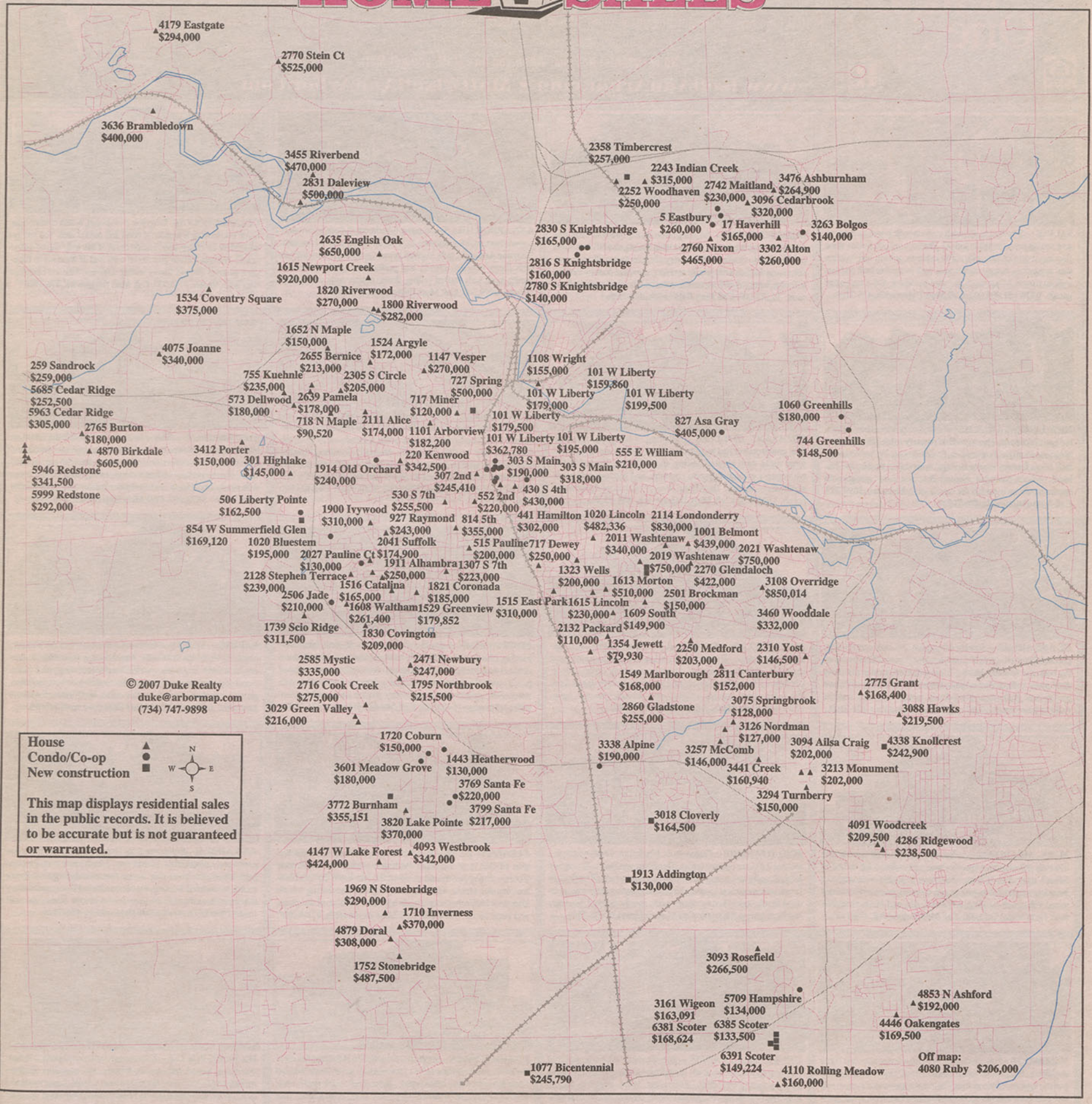
OCTOBER 2007

HOME SALES



Single-Family Home Sales				
Size (sq. ft.)	Sales	Ave. Price	Sq. Ft. Ave.	Loss
600-999	118	$175,000	$196	-6%
1,000-1,249	176	$209,000	$187	-10%
1,250-1,499	125	$230,000	$169	-12%
1,500-1,749	106	$258,000	$159	-15%
1,750-1,999	114	$277,000	$147	-13%
2,000-2,499	112	$381,000	$171	-12%
2,500-2,999	67	$416,000	$153	-17%
3,000+	48	$641,000	$181	-15%
Citywide	866	$284,000	$172	-12%

The number of single-family homes sold in Ann Arbor is down 6 percent in the first ten months of the year from the same period in 2005. According to our analysis of public records, the number of homes sold in the city (not the school district, which includes large parts of nearby townships) fell to 866 from 928 two years earlier. The average (mean) sale price fell to $284,000 from $311,000, a drop of 9 percent.

But that's not the whole story. Since this year's batch featured somewhat larger homes—averaging 1,686 square feet of living space versus 1,615 square feet in 2005—we calculated the average price per square foot of living space. By this yardstick, the price of a home in the city actually dropped 12 percent in two years, falling to $172 per square foot from $195.

The size of a home did matter. The chart at left shows that the smallest homes, measuring 600 to 999 square feet, lost just 6 percent of their 2005 value—leaving them the most expensive per foot, at $196. Homes of 2,500–2,999 square feet gave up nearly triple that amount, sinking 17 percent.

It's not that big homes have lost their charm, however. Prices for the biggest ones, those over 3,000 square feet, fell 15 percent per square foot. But at a comparative bargain of $181 per foot, buyers snapped up forty-eight of them so far this year—compared to just twenty-eight in the first ten months of 2005, when they sold for $214 per foot.

—Kevin Duke

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Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for almost 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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SALINE - 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home rests on an acre setting just minutes to US-23. Features include heated stone flooring, dream kitchen with maple cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with incredible bath and two walk-in closets, bonus room, finished basement, and 4-car heated garage. WOW! $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

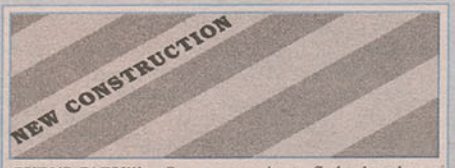
DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $1,068,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 5-bath home under construction walking distance to U of M Campus and Hospitals. Dramatic Arts and Crafts inspired home. Oversized dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite, and professional grade appliances, family room with vaulted ceiling, dream master suite, and 3-floor elevator. $999,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH- Incredible 5-bedroom, 6-bath custom-built home overlooking a wonderful pond and natural area. You will be amazed by the design and finished detail of this truly one-of-a-kind home. Features include great room with wall of windows to backyard, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement with home theater. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PHEASANT HOLLOW – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction just minutes to town. Stately stone exterior, great room with vaulted ceiling and built-ins, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and professional grade appliances, luxury first-floor master suite, and screened porch. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BURNS PARK!!! – Rare opportunity to find a brand new home in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's premier neighborhoods. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests one block from the park. All top quality amenities included featuring custom kitchen with granite counters, ample hardwood floors, and luxury master suite with walk-in closet and dream bath. You can still pick your own colors. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features showcase-like finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan includes two-story living room, den with oak paneled walls, cherry kitchen with marvelous eating area, family room with site-built cabinets, and first-floor master suite with marble bath. WOW! $679,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $558,800. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

POLO FIELDS – Exceptional 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home. Exterior has extensive landscaping and multiple oversized patios. Interior features crisp décor, kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter, large family room with raised ceiling, and luxury master suite. $539,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK WOODS – A 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch overlooking lake in one of Saline's most desired subs. Lot features dense woods, extensive landscaping, deck, patio, and screened porch overlooking the water. Stunning interior. Great room with water view, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath builder's model home in Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS - Gracious custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a spacious one acre walkout lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is loaded with upgrades including maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with crown molding, sun room, den, and luxurious master suite. Great home! $415,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SCIO TOWNSHIP – Custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a pastoral 2.65 acre country setting. This home was built to the highest level of quality and energy efficiency. Features include all hardwoods floors, custom kitchen, maple cabinets and granite counter tops, oversized family room, luxury master suite, mostly finished basement and 3-car garage. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PLEASANT LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful lakefront settings in Washtenaw County. Enjoy panoramic views of the lake from the this bluff-top setting. Home features many updates including maple kitchen with Corian counters, living room with stone fireplace, and large decks. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Enjoy stunning Huron River views from this completely remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape cod. Perched high above the river this home features a gorgeous living room, remodeled kitchen, ample hardwood floor, and luxury master suite with wall of glass to the Huron River. You will love it! $395,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is the best home available in this popular Saline neighborhood. Enjoy the large deck backing to protected woodlands. The interior is upgraded in every way and features open family room with fireplace, large kitchen with granite counters, designer tile baths, and finished lower level with daylight windows. $338,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS – 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial backing to commons area. Wonderful setting with extensive landscaping, large deck, and great view. Features maple kitchen, first-floor den, large master suite with vaulted ceiling, and finished lower level with rec room, study, bath, and bar. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LINCOLN PINES – Super sharp 4 BR, 3½ BA home in one of the area's most popular subs. This home is great inside and out featuring extensive landscaping, large deck, and pond view. Interior is gorgeous with two story great room, open kitchen with hearth room, first floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. $309,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HICKORY POINTE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is loaded with quality features and amenities. Features include ample hardwood floors, spacious formal dining room and living room, large kitchen with white cabinets and island, spacious family room, luxury master suite, and finished basement with view out windows. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MAPLEWOOD FARMS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NORTHBURY CONDO – Rare find! Pristine 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch condo NE Ann Arbor. Wonderful features including a remodeled kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counters, great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story windows, master suite with attached bath. Great setting with large deck and pretty backyard views. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This is the perfect 3-bedroom starter ranch on the west side of town. Everything is updated in this super sharp home. Extensive hardwood floors, remodeled master suite and kitchen, finished basement, 2½-car garage, and fenced backyard. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRENTWOOD SQUARE – Dramatic 2-bedroom, 2-bath end unit condo has the perfect location, floor plan, and upgrades. Walking distance to shopping, Starbucks, and Gallup Park. Interior features vaulted ceilings, granite kitchen, wonderful décor, hardwood floors, main level den, and upgraded bath. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Stunning is the only word that describes this custom-built masterpiece. Every detail is perfect inside and out. Gorgeous wooded setting backing to protected common area. Interior features gracious living room, two-story family room, gourmet kitchen, screened porch, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $1,375,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walkout basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $1,100,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $1,100,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FOX RIDGE – Very special 5-bedroom, 4 H-bath Frank Lloyd Wright inspired 2001 Showcase Entry. You will be impressed by the incredible attention to detail given in this truly one-of-a-kind home. 2.6 acre estate setting overlooking a pond. Interior includes two-story great room with stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Saline Schools. $979,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – This 5-bedroom, 4½-bath completely remodeled home rests on a beautiful golf course setting. Enjoy views of water and golf from the deck, screened porch, patio, and most rooms. Everything is new inside: cherry kitchen with granite, baths, flooring, and finished walkout basement $975,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Magnificent 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built all brick two-story was featured by the Home and Garden Channel. Upgraded features include custom kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, luxurious first-floor master, bonus room, and finished basement. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. $950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3-bath, and 2 half-bath new construction. Complete and ready to go, this home is loaded with only the best in finish and workmanship. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and top-end appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and den with cherry built-ins. $899,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Incredible opportunity to own this brand new 5-bedroom, 4-bath home on the #1 fairway at Stonebridge. This home is perfect inside and out with gorgeous golf course views and a partially wooded lot. Interior features two-story family room, gourmet kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Enjoy golf course resort living in this 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home . It's just 30 minutes away but it feels like your up-north. Highlights include a full-size indoor pool, hot tub, two-story family room, custom kitchen with hickory cabinets and all new appliances, luxurious master suite, and finished basement with wine cellar. $609,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo rests on the finest lot in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the large pond, twin islands, and #17 fairway from the large deck, screened porch, or brick paver patio. Wonderful interior amenities include cherry kitchen, great room with 10 ft. ceiling, den, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $574,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $559,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo with gorgeous view of the #18 hole at Stonebridge. Great interior spaces include large great room with 10-foot ceilings, maple kitchen with upgraded counters, screen porch, luxury master suite, den, and finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $479,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard, extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and luxurious master suite. You will love it. $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $425,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – Brand new 2-bedroom, 2-bath Highpoint Villa loaded with quality features and amenities. Enjoy the carefree lifestyle in this never lived in unit. Highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury master suite with huge walk-in closet, and view out basement. $364,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS – Perfect 4-bedroom, 3½-bath two-story loaded with features and amenities in one of Saline's most desired subs. Wonderful floor plan features two-story foyer, living room with vaulted ceiling, den, large kitchen with maple cabinets, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS – Fantastic 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home with a long list of features and amenities. Exterior is highlighted by the brand new cedar deck and gazebo. Interior features striking two-story great room, large kitchen, luxury first-floor master suite, spacious bedrooms, and finished lower level with rec room and study. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE RIDGE – Wonderful 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a peaceful acre lot just minutes from US-23 and Ann Arbor. Spacious yard with ample landscaping, large deck and basketball court. Interior is picture-perfect featuring two-story foyer, maple kitchen, family room with fireplace, and very nice master suite with vaulted ceiling. $279,900 . **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GEORGETOWN – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial is the best home in this popular neighborhood I've ever seen. Every inch is remodeled, updated, and improved. Incredible lot backing to a park with brick paver patio, cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, family room with fireplace, and master suite with remodeled bath. WOW!! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKSIDE – Very nice 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in this super convenient complex just minutes to Briarwood, I-94, and downtown Ann Arbor. Wonderful features include 2-car attached garage, large kitchen, open great room, master suite with vaulted ceiling, and finished walkout basement. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo is the best. Enjoy gorgeous views of the pond and open space from the deck. Interior features vaulted ceilings throughout, open kitchen with breakfast bar and extra cabinets, great room has fireplace with custom oak mantel, large dining area, and nice master suite with walk-in closet and bath with 2-person Jacuzzi. $172,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Very sharp 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, walking distance to downtown Dexter. Great condo with wonderful décor, large master suite, open kitchen, and screened porch. You will love it. $129,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GEDDES LAKE – There is incredible value in this like new 3-bedroom, 2 H-bath pond-front unit. Everything is updated including maple kitchen with upgraded floor and counter tops, new carpet and paint, and updated baths. You will be impressed. $119,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Emerson School . . . . . emerson-school.org

Falling Water . . . . . fallingwatermi.com

Great Harvest Bread Company . . . . greatharvest.com

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

This truck parks along an old trade route to Detroit.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

" 'The biggest little city in the middle,' " wrote Rosemary Caruso of Pinckney, identifying November's I Spy as the sign painted on the side of the Main Street Party Store. "It's the biggest little city between Chicago and Detroit," explains the store's proprietor, Joe Kouza.

In demographics, perhaps; but for character and attitude, some may consider Ann Arbor the biggest little city between New York and San Francisco.

The image of the store ("Shoppe" on the sign) brought back fond memories for Linda Neely—her mom, she wrote, "loved that store for one reason"—when she was forty-two, "they asked to see her ID. . . . It made her year!" David K. Lones noted its breadth of merchandise, calling it "the only place where you can buy a $1 bottle of wine and a forty-year-old bottle of scotch at the same time."

We received six correct entries; Marta England of Whitmore Lake won our random drawing. She will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

The November Fake Ad for *Delivering Letters to Bo* (p. 81), available at Boundaries Books, elicited 148 correct entries. The memoir was purportedly written by Gunnar Borweber, longtime letter carrier for the late U-M football coach Bo Schembechler.

Our winner was Ypsilanti's Becky Sukach, who wrote, "I hope my mail carrier does not get any ideas from this. After all, who knows us better than our mail carrier?"

Another entrant, Liz Keogh of Bakersfield, California—who says the Observer has been keeping her up to date on Ann Arbor "for almost twenty-five years now"—wondered about the timing of the ad's placement nearly a year after the coach's death. "Clever of you to put it in the same issue as John U. Bacon's 'The Coach,' taken from his book," Keogh wrote. In response, the Fake Ad Czar can say only that he does very few things intentionally but does always like to quote from entries that call him clever.

A poignant memoir from a man who visited coaching legend Bo Schembechler's house nearly every day.

Delivering Letters to Bo
by Gunnar Borweber
with Rich Album

For eleven years, letter carrier Gunnar Borweber delivered letters, bills, magazines, advertising material, and the occasional package to the Ann Arbor home of Bo Schembechler. Now he reveals his intimate knowledge of the legendary coach and the people who wrote to him.

To enter, identify the December Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. The name of the Observer website *arborweb* is always fitted into the Fake Ad somehow—in the middle of Gunnar Borweber's name, for example. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Monday, December 10, will be eligible for the December drawings.

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We sold our HOUSE & won TWO ROUND-TRIP AIRLINE TICKETS from Conlin Travel!
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Your one link to buying, selling, and connecting in Washtenaw County.
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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 67 for daily events listings and a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews.

Classical & Religious Music

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 1
- Pianist Bill Bolcom & mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, Dec. 1
- Sacred Song, Dec. 1
- Vivo Sinfonietta, Dec. 1
- University Choral Union *Messiah,* Dec. 1 & 2
- U-M Michigan Pops Orchestra, Dec. 2
- Violinist Gabriel Bolkosky, Dec. 2
- Pianist Dady Mehta & Fuxi piano trio, Dec. 2
- Composer-pianist Sid Samberg, Dec. 6
- Tallis Scholars choral ensemble, Dec. 6
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 8
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 8
- "Tuba Christmas," Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 9
- Violinist Barton Rotberg & pianist Sungeun Kim, Dec. 9
- Soprano Whitnie Crown Wolverton & classical guitarist Jeremiah Benham, Dec. 9
- Folk guitarist Leo Kottke & the Turtle Island String Quartet, Dec. 9
- Composer Evan Chambers's song cycle *The Old Burying Ground,* Dec. 10
- Classical guitarist Matthew Ardizzone, Dec. 13

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Saline Fiddlers ReStrung (folk), Dec. 2
- Youssou N'Dour & Super Etoile (Senegalese), Dec. 8
- Lehto & Wright (folk), Dec. 9
- The Black House Ceilidh (Yuletide), Dec. 22
- "Crossroads Ceili" (Celtic), Dec. 28 & 29

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- Ypsilanti Area Dancers, Dec. 1 & 2
- *Exit the King* (U-M Theatre Department), Dec. 1
- *Sunday Morning* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 1
- *The Poetry of Pizza* (Purple Rose Theatre), Dec. 1, 2, 4–9, 12–16, & 18–22
- *The Baker's Wife* (Performance Network), Dec. 1, 2, 6–9, 13–16, & 20–23
- *The Taming of the Shrew* (U-M MUSKET), Dec. 1 & 2
- *Twelfth Night* (Greenhills School), Dec. 6 & 7
- *Red Light Winter* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 6–8
- *A Good Boy* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 6–9
- *J. B.* (U-M Theatre Department), Dec. 6–9
- *Dance & Related Arts Concert* (U-M Dance Department), Dec. 6 & 7
- *Iolanthe* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 6–9
- *The Butler Did It, Again!* (P. T. D. Productions), Dec. 6–9 & 13–15
- *The Firebird* (EMU Dance Program), Dec. 7
- *The Santaland Diaries/A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Blackbird Theater), Dec. 7–9
- *Winter Wonderland: Carnival of the Animals* (Dance Gallery Studio), Dec. 8 & 9
- *American Visions* (U-M Residential College Drama Concentration), Dec. 9
- *A Christmas Carol* (MorrisCo Art Theatre), Dec. 19–23

Renata Pokupic

Tallis Scholars

Sacred Song

Among December's many vocal music events are the Tallis Scholars' performance at St. Francis Church December 6, Sacred Song's seasonal celebration at Genesis of Ann Arbor December 1, and UMS's annual *Messiah* at Hill Auditorium, featuring mezzo Renata Pokupic, on December 1 and 2.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Umphrey's McGee (jam band), Dec. 1
- Guy Clark (Texas singer-songwriter), Dec. 1
- Lonesome Country (bluegrass), Dec. 2
- Chaverim B'Shirim (a cappella), Dec. 2
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 2
- Michelle Shocked (singer-songwriter), Dec. 3
- Thad Beckman (Texas singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Dan Hicks (hipster singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- Esham (hip-hop), Dec. 7
- Fourth Wish (jazz), Dec. 7
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- John Gorka (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- All about Eve (pop-folk), Dec. 8
- Lucy Kaplansky (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Holiday Ragtime Bash, Dec. 9
- Back Forty (acoustic string jam band), Dec. 10
- Ingrid Michaelson (pop-rock singer-songwriter), Dec. 12
- Aimee Mann (pop-rock singer-songwriter), Dec. 12
- Paul Geremia (blues), Dec. 12
- Johnny Winter (blues), Dec. 27
- The Chenille Sisters (pop-folk), Dec. 31

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Tim Slagle, Dec. 1
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 4
- Comic Finesse Mitchell, Dec. 6–8
- Musical comic Jewmongus, Dec. 8
- Comic Lou Santini, Dec. 13–15
- Comic L. A. Hardy, Dec. 20–22
- Comic Jim Wiggins, Dec. 27–29
- Comic Cash Levy, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 1 & 2
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum Christmas, Dec. 1
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 1–3
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 1 & 2
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival. Dec. 1 & 2
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 2
- Main Street "Festive Friday Holiday Nights," Dec. 7, 14, & 21
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 8
- Rentschler Farm Museum Christmas, Dec. 8 & 9
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 8, 9, 15, & 16
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Robert Hass, Dec. 1

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* (EMU Theater Department), Dec. 1, 2, 7, & 8
- Ann Arbor Symphony "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 1
- *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* (Ann Arbor Junior Theater), Dec. 1 & 2
- *The Firebird* (EMU Dance Program children's concert), Dec. 7
- U-M Exhibit Museum Space Day, Dec. 8
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan), Dec. 8 & 9
- Kiwanis Christmas Sing, Dec. 9
- *Charlotte's Web* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 12, 13, & 15–17
- Lee Murdock "Christmas Ship" family concert, Dec. 13
- Maureen Schiffman and Coco children's concert, Dec. 22

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Best of the Local Slipstream" with fiction writers Fritz Swanson, Cara Spindler, Peter Markus, and David Erik Nelson, Dec. 5

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ANN ARBOR Downtown

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Friday, December 7th

It's fun, it's festive, it's ON SALE! Stores open late! Santa's on duty! Live sidewalk entertainment from 7 to 10pm! Visit www.mainstreetannarbor.org for entertainment details.

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FESTIVE FRIDAY NIGHTS

November 23rd thru December 21st

Choirs, carolers, pipers, and more on the sidewalk from 7 to 9pm.

SANTA'S MAILBOX

Santa's Mailbox will be ready to take your child's letters to Santa on Friday, November 23! Located at 332 S. Ashley in front of Red Shoes from November 23 until December 19.
Postage to the North Pole compliments of the Main Street Area Association!

Chase Bank at 125 S. Main is collecting donations for Perry School. Please bring hats, gloves and mittens for children 2-8 years old.

UMS PRESENTS: HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

Saturday, December 1 at 8 pm & Sunday, December 2 at 2 pm

An Ann Arbor area tradition with UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone, Conductor • Hill Auditorium • Tickets: $10-$32
Call the UMS Ticket Office at 734-764-2538
or visit www.ums.org

Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery
994-4848

Afternoon Delight
665-7513

Arbor Brewing Company
213-1393

Bivouac
761-6207

The Chop House
1-888-456-DINE

Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub
665-2968

Crazy Wisdom
Book Store & Tea Room
665-2757

Gratzi
1-888-456-DINE

Palio
1-888-456-DINE

Real Seafood Co.
1-888-456-DINE

Red Shoes
913-5554

Renaissance
769-8511

Running Fit
769-5016

Ten Thousand Villages
332-1270

University Musical Society
764-2538

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